

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVII

DENVER, COLORADO

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JANUARY 1936

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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1936

will be the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the DENVER MARKET. Since its opening, over 90,000,000 head, or 1,000,000 carloads, of live stock have been received at Denver.

To attract this volume of business, DENVER necessarily had to be a good market—a point where live stock could be sent for sale with confidence—confidence that prices and service received would be satisfactory—confidence that a wide outlet would exist which would cause good prices.

In handling these 90,000,000 head of live stock the DENVER MARKET has served the West. It has provided a point near at hand which has created good prices for both sales made on the market and sales based on that market.

DENVER

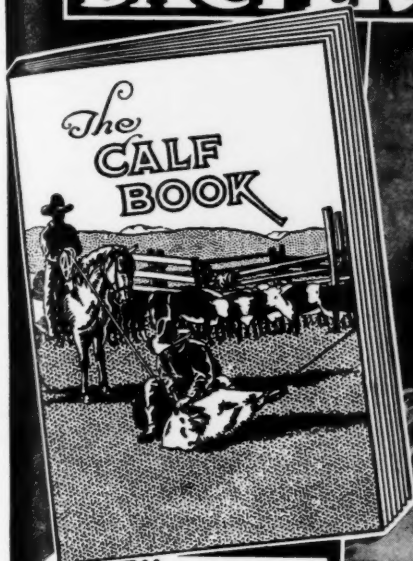
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FINER LIVESTOCK

. . . a result of the drought

● The drought of the past two years was a national catastrophe in many respects, but in one respect it can be a blessing.

When, in the course of a few years, livestock is again plentiful, the *quality* of that stock will probably be better than has been the case heretofore. The reason is, obviously, that during the drought the majority of the scrub stock was slaugh-

tered, so that, for the most part, only the better stock remains from which to build up the new supply.

Every effort should be made by livestock producers to improve the quality of the herds and flocks. Higher quality meat will improve consumer demand for meat and will aid producers and packers and retailers to sell to better advantage.

RA Cabee
President

ARMOUR AND COMPANY

THE AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVII

DENVER, COLORADO, JANUARY, 1936

Number 8

Pioneer Stockmen of Arizona

BY WILL C. BARNES

Phoenix, Arizona

NOT LONG AGO THE WRITER WAS ASKED about the first range stockmen, especially cattlemen, of Arizona—who they were; from whence they came, and when. An even approximate answer required so much research that it seemed as if the information secured might be of interest to others.

Historical records show that the first domestic live stock to enter the area now included in the state of Arizona were brought in by de Coronado, Spanish captain general.

In the first place it should be understood that originally there were no cattle, horses, or sheep on this continent of ours. They are exotics, brought here from Europe by the first Spanish adventurers who crossed the Atlantic, seeking the New World that Christopher Columbus had discovered some years before.

Fortunately, these Spanish gentlemen were wise enough to bring with them writers, who became the historians for each group. Thus we have today written accounts of all their doings, even down to many almost trifling incidents of their daily lives.

Spaniards Brought in First Cattle and Horses

Of our domestic animals, horses came first to America. When Cortez arrived off the coast of Vera Cruz, Mexico, early in 1515—a little over twenty years after Columbus made his discovery—he brought with him sixteen head of horses for the use of his officers and men. His historians give us not

only the age and color but the name, sex, disposition, and general character of each of the sixteen horses, which were mares, geldings, and stallions.

The first cattle arrived on the shores of the New World in 1521. In that year Gregorio Villalobos, one of the early governors of New Spain, landed a small army on the Mexican coast near Vera Cruz, not far from the place where Cortez had unloaded his ships a few years before.

Villalobos' historians tell us that "he brought a number of calves (*oviese ganado*) from San Domingo, he being the first to bring them to New Spain."

These few animals, the forerunners of our present-day herds, must have increased very fast; for on February 23, 1540, when Coronado, the Spanish captain general, with his army left the western coast of Mexico headed northeast on a journey of discovery and conquest in the northern part of what is today Arizona he took with him, according to his historians, Bernal Diaz and Casteneda, "about three hundred horses for his soldiers, more than a thousand horses and mules for pack animals, and large droves of big and little cattle (*ganado mejor y ganado menor*)."

Translated freely, this means cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs.

Coronado crossed the line into Arizona somewhere near the present city of Nogales, followed the San Pedro River to the north, crossed the Gila near where Solomonville now stands, marched through the White Mountains of Arizona—which they named "The Wilderness"—to the east of Fort Apache, and

entered New Mexico, wintering in the Rio Grande Valley near the present town of Bernalillo.

Unquestionably the wild horses which covered our western plains in early days were escapes from Coronado's herds. It was from them that the Indians of the plains region secured their first mounts, and became horsemen instead of footmen.

The next year he marched on east across the vast, open prairies of eastern Colorado and Kansas as far as Great Bend in that state.



SAN XAVIER MISSION NEAR TUCSON

But Coronado was an explorer, not a stockman. He carried live stock along for transportation and food purposes only, and not for stocking the country. It was not until about the year 1690 that the first live stock—cattle, horses, and sheep—were brought to Arizona to remain there and stock the ranges.

Early Spanish Missions Possessed Many Cattle

Father Kino was an Austrian who came to Mexico in 1681 as a missionary priest. After several years of wanderings he found himself, about 1690, in northern Mexico along the border of what is now the United States. From the first he worked hard to interest the Indians in agriculture and especially in the raising of domestic animals—cattle, sheep, goats, and horses—of which they had none.

By this time the original importations of live stock into Mexico had increased in numbers to an almost unbelievable extent. With the founding of each new mission, Kino brought to them a small number of animals which he taught the Indians to tend.

By 1700 these Spanish missions in southern Arizona possessed so much live stock that Kino in his diary for that year says:

"We gathered up at branding time and sent alive to California about seven hundred head of beeves and a thousand head of sheep and goats, besides some horses."

Kino's diary has been the source of important information as to the early-day life among these mission Indians. For instance, in Lockwood's *Pioneer Days in Arizona*, he records as follows:

"April 24, 1700. Here at Guevavi there were also eighty-four head of sheep and goats."

Two days later Kino was at San Xavier Mission near Tucson, and writes:

"We killed six beeves of the three hundred they were tending for me here, with forty head of sheep and goats and a small drove of mares."

Guevavi was a small mission established by Kino on the Santa Cruz River near the little hamlet of Calabasas.

The herd sent to California was undoubtedly from surplus animals taken from the Arizona mission herds. Without question the original stock which later covered the vast, open ranges of southern California were driven to that state overland from southern Arizona. What a stock-drive that must have been from the vicinity of Tucson to the scattered missions along the southern California coast! What hardships both men and animals must have endured crossing such an extent of waterless desert waste, with little in the way of satisfactory forage along the route traveled! The crossing of the wide, swift Colorado River must have been a task in itself.

Apaches Destroyed Missions, Scattered Their Herds

There is little historic information as to just what happened in the years between 1700 and about 1850 to the live-stock business thus established by Father Kino. The little we have indicates clearly that the animals increased rapidly, forming a source of wealth and food for the local mission Indians. Also that in the later years of the 1700's the Apaches swarmed over the whole region of southern Arizona and devastated the missions, herds, and crops of the local tribes almost to the point of extinction.

The first definite knowledge we have is from the records of the so-called Mormon Battalion—a body of several hundred soldiers, led by Lieutenant-Colonel St. George Cooke, which in 1846-47 marched across the plains from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Monterey, California.

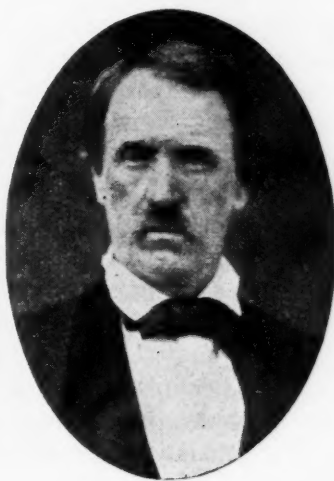
They took the southern route across Arizona, found the missions in ruins, the fields bare, and the herds of live stock gone, except here and there bands of wild cattle that had escaped the attacks of the

raiding Apaches and had become wilder even than the deer and antelope.

Cooke's command lived almost entirely on the meat from these wild cattle during its journey across the territory. Practically all emigrant trains, as well as the passing soldiers, did the same, until they were about exterminated. The celebrated "Battle of the



Courtesy State Historian
PETER (PETE) KETCHEN
Stood by his guns when
others fled the country



Courtesy State Historian
WILLIAM S. OURY
One of first, if not first, to
run cattle in Arizona

Bulls," as it has been called, was an incident of the battalion's march down the San Pedro River, a little west of the present Tombstone. This so-called "battle" is delightfully described in Pancoast's *The Diary of a 49'er*. He was a member of the battalion, and writes from personal experience. Apparently the "battle" was merely a stampede of alarmed wild cattle through the camp of the soldiers, who, fed up on Apache dangers and thinking only of Indians, fired volley after volley into the surging mob of frenzied beasts that overturned tents, gored mules to death, killed one soldier, injured several more, and then swept on into the darkness.

John R. Bartlett, who visited southern Arizona along the Mexican border in 1851 and left a well-written account of what he saw, and several other writers of that period tell amazing stories of the number of these wild cattle that, deserted by the Indian herders, escaped into the mountains and deserts and survived even the arrows of the Apaches.

Before that date, however, the great herds of cattle that had grazed about each of the several missions had passed almost out of the picture.

The completion of what is known as the Gadsden Purchase in 1852-53 brought under the Stars and Stripes over 30,000,000 acres of land belonging originally to Old Mexico. This land cost us \$10,000,000, or about 35 cents an acre. We could have had 30,000,000 acres more at the same price had Secretary Gadsden deemed it a wise investment; but he

was severely criticised for wasting public funds that way, just as the purchase of nearly 400,000,000 acres in Alaska for \$7,000,000 a few years later was bitterly denounced as "Seward's Folly."

The change in land ownership, however, brought new life into the purchase area south of the Gila River in Arizona. Much travel to the California coast came that way, and beginning about 1852 many large herds of sheep and cattle were trailed to the coast across the region. Mostly they came from the southeastern states, driven on foot day by day. None of these trailmen seems to have been impressed by the grazing possibilities of Arizona. California and its gold held the center of the stage in those early days.

Eventually, however, the opportunities for stock-raising in Arizona began to attract the interest of newcomers and travelers along the great southern route to the Pacific coast. Here and there small bunches of stock from the trail herds were sold to local men and formed the nucleus of all early Arizona herds.

Pioneers Faced Warfare, Massacres, Hardships

One of the first, if not the first, men to enter the cattle business was William S. Oury, of Tucson, who in 1858 bought one hundred heifers and four young bulls from a man trailing a herd of cattle from Illinois through to California. Oury turned them out on the open range not far from Tucson, and a year



Courtesy State Historian
HENRY C. HOOKER
Owned one of largest and
best-bred herds in Arizona



Courtesy State Historian
JOHN A. ROCKFELLOW
Author, engineer, stockman.
Ranched in Arizona in 1869

or two afterwards went back to Kentucky and bought four hundred head more and trailed them clear across the plains from that state to Tucson.

About the same year the well-known character, Pete Ketchen, established a ranch on the Santa Cruz River a few miles below Calabasas north of Nogales. Here he built up a good-sized herd of cattle and other

live stock, despite the continuous attacks on herds and herders by the marauding Apaches.

The record of the early years of these pioneer Arizona stockmen is one of constant warfare with the Apaches; of herds run off into the mountains; of herders massacred on their very doorsteps.

But in spite of all this, small bunches of live stock, mostly cattle, were appearing on the luxurious ranges of those days all over the territory. This was especially the case in southern Arizona, where along the Gila, the San Pedro, Sonoita, Santa Cruz, and other streams the open grazing grounds were fast being taken up by stockmen eager to get into the range live-stock business then attracting much attention.

Mormon Church Early Identified with Ranching

As early as 1863 Dr. James Whitmore settled in northern Arizona north of the Buckskin Mountains just south of the Utah line and established a small herd of cattle at what is now known as Pipe Springs. Whitmore was killed by Indians in 1866, and a year or so later his stock and ranches were purchased by Brigham Young for the Mormon Church. This was known as the "Church Herd," which eventually increased to several hundred animals. His son, John W. Young, managed the outfit for several years. The cattle were all branded JWY on the left ribs. There were also in the same brand nearly a thousand head of range horses of excellent character. The writer bought fifty of these mares in 1893 from a trail herd which Young sent down into Arizona to peddle out.

Cattle Business Starts in Earnest

In 1864-65 several outfits—John Duke, Campbell and Baker, the Fains, and others—came into the region about Prescott, especially into the Chino Valley to the north, and started good-sized herds of cattle.

Over on the Verde River, under the shelter of old Fort Verde, came the Wingfields, Wales Arnold, William Munds, Boss Akers, William Clift, Johnnie Mars, and others. Then up around the San Francisco and Bill Williams Mountains the Perrin Land and Live Stock Company, C. E. Boyce, John Dougherty, Stanfield Brothers, C. E. Rogers, William Ashurst, father of Senator Ashurst, and others established themselves. Several large sheep outfits also founded herds in this region about that time. By 1880 the district was well stocked with both sheep and cattle. Mostly these outfits came into Arizona either from California or Oregon. Some few came from Utah and Nevada.

About 1869-70 Colonel H. C. Hooker, who for several years had held large army and Indian contracts for beef in Arizona, started his famous Sierra

Bonita Ranch near Fort Grant at the base of the Graham Mountains. Eventually Hooker owned one of the largest and best-bred herds of range cattle in Arizona. It was at Hooker's ranch while visiting him that Augustine Thomas, the playwright, got his inspiration for and developed the well-known play, *Arizona*.

In 1875 a young New Yorker, Don Sanford, started a cattle ranch in Pima County on the Sonoita River. Much to the disgust of his cow-raising neighbors he traded them for sheep a few years later. This was one of the first large herds of sheep in southern Arizona.

About 1876 James Stinson settled on Silver Creek in what became known as Stinson Valley, where he ran a large herd of longhorns. In 1878 the Mormon Church, seeking new locations for its membership, bought Stinson's water and ranch rights for 500 head of first-class Mormon cattle. He agreed to leave the country and not run cattle in this vicinity again, which agreement he kept. The valley was then rechristened Snowflake, after two Mormon bishops, Flake and Snow.

Thomas C. Greer and his family came to Apache County from Texas in 1877, bringing by trail over a thousand head of Texas cattle together with several hundred range horses. They established themselves on the Little Colorado River below St. Johns in the then Yavapai, but later Apache, County.

In 1878 Lot Smith, a bishop of the Mormon Church, with several brethren drove a herd of cattle from Utah down to the settlement later known as Sunset, near the present Winslow. From here they moved up to the Mogollon Mountains to a spring, which became known as the Mormon Dairy, south of Flagstaff. Here they made butter and cheese in summer, dropping down from the high ranges and snow each fall to winter along the Little Colorado. About 1880 it was commonly estimated that Lot Smith owned many range cattle and probably more than three thousand head of excellent range horses, all in his Circle S brand.

One of the first large range outfits in northern Arizona was Smith, Carson and, Tee, or the Twenty-four Cattle Company—from its brand, the numeral two superimposed on the vertical part of the figure four. They had been running a large herd in the Sandhills of Nebraska for several years, but the grasshoppers and several large prairie fires in the fall discouraged them, so that in the spring of 1879 they trailed several thousand head of longhorns across the country, which they located on the headwaters of the Little Colorado River near Springer-ville, Apache County. That year, 1879, Walter Vail, under the firm name of Sanford and Vail, drove about two thousand head of cattle from Texas to

Arizona and located them on the ranges east of the Santa Rita Mountains, about twenty miles south of Pantano, in Pima County. This was Vail's celebrated Empire Ranch, near where he was bitten on the hand by a Gila monster while on the spring round-up of 1890.

In 1879 Sanders and France established in the Kaibab, or Buckskin, Mountains on the north side of the Grand Canyon the Bar Z herd of cattle, which, next to the JWY church herd was said to be the largest herd of range cattle in Arizona at that time.

As early as 1870 several groups of Mormon settlers brought cattle from Utah to the region along the Little Colorado River, east of the present Winslow. Their numbers were not great, however.

In 1879 J. V. Vickers and others established the Chiricahua Cattle Company on ranges in the San Simon and Sulphur Springs Valleys northeast of Tombstone. In 1890 it was estimated that they owned over thirty thousand head of unusually good range cattle. When Mr. Vickers died, his cattle holdings were purchased by the late Henry S. Boice. His sons still run the iron on the same old ranges.

In this same year, 1879, Brannock Riggs, the Monk Brothers, John A. Rockfellow, and others started cattle ranches in the Sulphur Springs Valley south of the present Willcox. Willcox for many years was the largest cattle-shipping point in all Arizona.

In 1880 Colonel Joseph Hampson, a railroad contractor of Kansas City, who for two or three years had been building the Santa Fe Railroad west, became impressed with the cattle-raising possibilities of Arizona, and shipped out from his Kansas farms about a thousand head of well-bred young heifers with which to stock a range on Eagle Creek not far from Clifton, Arizona, on the east side of the Apache Indian reservation. Just how Hampson discovered this particular range, so far from his base of operations along the Santa Fe, the writer has never been able to find out. The herd was driven overland from the end of the railroad, a little west of Albuquerque, across the Apache Indian reservation by way of Fort Apache, where the writer saw it that summer. The cattle were awfully thin and tender-footed from their long journey, and remained so long on the reservation to "rest up" that the military authorities at the post ordered them to move on. The "Double Circle" Ranch is still occupied by the offspring of this herd. The men in charge of it in the early days had their full share of Apache raids and experiences. E. A. Van Arnin, who succeeded Hampson as owner of the Double Circle outfit, died in November, 1933, at Douglas, Arizona.

The famous Arivaipa Cattle Ranch of Bert Dunlap was established in the early part of 1882 and was

one of Arizona's largest ranches for years. Not the earliest, but by far the largest, cattle company ever known in Arizona was the one known commonly as the "Hashknife" outfit—from its cattle brand, which resembled the old-fashioned kitchen chopping knife upside down. The owners bought about 2,000,000 acres of the old Atlantic and Pacific Land Grant in Apache and Coconino Counties along the line of the railroad, and stocked it with about fifty thousand head of the longest, leanest, meanest, wildest long-horn cows that ever left the ranges of the Lone Star state. They were surplus stock from the Pecos River ranges of the Continental Cattle Company in western Texas, and could stand more grief, use less food and water, and bear more calves every spring than any cattle that ever wore a brand. The owners also brought with them a bunch of cow-persons of equal meanness, wildness, and ability to survive most anything in the way of hardships and sheriffs. Many of them said a fond "good bye" to the Texas Rangers, who gave them a "God bless you" with the sincere hope that their trails would never again cross and that they would remain permanently in their new environment.

Texas Longhorns Introduced

The first of the western Texas longhorns were unloaded at Holbrook and Flagstaff in the summer of 1886, and we who had been running our small herds on this range soon found ourselves outnumbered twenty to one, our delightful range-ownership ideas busted wide open, and compelled to scrap for our very existence.

The company, known officially and legally as the "Aztec Cattle Company," was owned principally by some New York banking interests, the Seligmans, and others, together with a number of wealthy men interested in the building of the Santa Fe road, also a few cattlemen around Weatherford, Texas, interested in the Continental Cattle Company. Among these were Henry Warren, E. J. Simpson, B. F. Irby, and George L. Brooks, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, the well-known live-stock agent of the Santa Fe Railroad, who were each successively range managers of the company at Holbrook. My old diary of that year records the fact that the outfit branded sixteen thousand head of calves during the season of 1888. The well-known stockman, Burton C. Mossman, was range manager for several years succeeding Brooks.

In 1900, after several years of droughts, overstocked ranges, overdrawn bank accounts, and heavy winter losses, it fell to Mossman's lot to supervise the breaking up and shipping out of this great herd. This he accomplished successfully. I believe, however, that the owners still are in possession of a large part of their lands.

One hesitates to name individual persons or mention particular herds of cattle, because there are many old-timers and early outfits that deserve mention. But it is manifestly impossible to speak of them all in an article of this kind. The writer has mentioned those which stand out in his own personal memory of the old days of the Arizona ranges. To any he has overlooked he must plead the weakness of the human memory, together with the limitations of the space allotted for this material.

Over Million Cattle Roamed Arizona in Heyday

The earliest census of Arizona cattle that I have is one taken from the assessor's records of the several Arizona counties for the year 1881. This shows a total in round numbers of 150,000 head of cattle of all kinds for that year. In 1887 the number had increased to 257,000 head. On January 1, 1935, the estimates of the Department of Agriculture show 770,700 head of cattle and calves in the state.

In the years 1895 to 1897, when the range business in Arizona was at its peak, there were probably well over 1,250,000 cattle of all kinds on the Arizona ranges and farms. It was the high-water mark for the range-cattle business.

THE PHOENIX CONVENTION

UNDER THE BALMY SKIES OF PHOENIX, WELL over a thousand cattlemen gathered for the thirty-ninth annual session of the American National Live Stock Association during the four days, January 7-10. No meeting in the past has been more numerous attended; in none has the spirit of co-operation been more pronounced. From every point of view the convention was a great success. Problems of the industry were probed and remedies outlined. Many subjects received attention—the AAA, the Argentine pact, the reciprocal trade agreements, the public-land question, beef grading, marketing, and other matters.

Entertainment was furnished on a lavish scale—music, song, dance, and theater for every "aside-from-business" occasion.

The proceedings are given in outline below. Several of the addresses which are at this early date at hand are being printed in full. Others will follow in later issues of THE PRODUCER.

The Program

Preceding the formal opening of the convention was a meeting of the Executive Committee, held on the morning of January 7. At 1:30 o'clock the convention was called to order. The visiting stockmen were welcomed by Frank S. Boice, of Sonoita, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association; Governor B. B. Moeur; and Joseph S. Jenckes, mayor of Phoenix, to which addresses response was made by L. C. Brite, of Marfa, Texas. President Collins' annual address and Secretary Mollin's report, which are published in full in this issue, followed. An address by M. L. Wilson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and general discussion closed the meeting for the first day.

The second day's session was opened by Dr. A. F. Vass, University of Wyoming, Laramie, who recommended drastic

reductions in the number of stock grazed on western ranges. Following Mr. Vass' address came two talks dealing with the Forest Service and public lands—"The Mutuality of Interests Between the Forest Service and Stockmen" by F. A. Silcox, Chief Forester, Washington, D. C.; and "Public Pasture Rights" by F. R. Carpenter, Director of Grazing, also from Washington, who held that rigid control of grazing land is imperative, otherwise "the great live-stock industry of the West cannot exist twenty-five years." Discussion on these subjects followed.

In the afternoon Dr. H. M. O'Rear, Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C., pointed out in a talk entitled "Progress in the Control and Eradication of Tuberculosis and Bang's Disease," that tuberculosis in bovine herds has now been reduced to "nearly zero" in the western United States. He was followed by Roy F. Britton, director, National Highway Users' Conference, Washington, D. C., on the subject of "The Future of Highway Use." For the remainder of the session, Charles E. Blaine conducted a round-table discussion of transportation problems.

Opening the morning session of Thursday was a talk by B. F. McCarthy, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C., entitled "Progress of Federal Beef Grading and Its Ultimate Benefits to Cattle Producers," followed by discussion of the problem of grading and stamping of beef. "Beef Merchandising" was the title of the next address, given by R. W. Doe, vice-president, Safeway Stores, Inc., Oakland, California. The subject of "Meat Consumption and Matters Affecting It" was explained by R. C. Pollock, general manager, National Live Stock and Meat Board, Chicago, Illinois. At this point a general discussion of the Canadian reciprocal trade agreement and the Argentine sanitary pact took place.

R. H. Cabell, President of Armour and Company, Chicago, Illinois, opened the afternoon session with a talk on "World Meat Consumption." Following Mr. Cabell, Clarence Jackson, president of the Yavapai Cattle Growers' Association, Prescott, Arizona, explained "The Yavapai Calf Plan for Financing the American National," under which plan receipts of the association have been materially enlarged. Fred H. Bixby, of Long Beach, wound up the speaking program with an address that pointed out the benefits of unity and the necessity for even stronger co-operation among all cattlemen.

We summarize below the resolutions adopted:

Opposing administration's present policy of negotiating reciprocal trade agreements, and urging that all future pacts be ratified by Senate;

Opposing ratification of proposed Argentine sanitary convention, and demanding retention of present embargo against importation of live stock or its products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists;

Suggesting that committee go to Washington to observe public-land legislation;

Requesting apportionment of substantial part of grazing-fee revenue for purpose of policing live-stock industry;

Urging discontinuance of reducing well-established forest permits for purpose of distribution;

Requesting that no further curtailment of use of Indian reservations for grazing be made in next five years, and that local prices prevail in sales of cattle from reservations;

Commending Secretary of the Interior Ickes for reappointment of F. R. Carpenter as director of grazing;

Opposing Capper-Hope-Wearin bills which would hamper marketing of live stock;

Commending Farm Credit Administration, recommending that members use its facilities, and suggesting that directors of production credit associations be not removed on political grounds;

Instructing Legislative Committee to investigate central market abuses and pass its advice on to proper officials;

Indorsing Kleberg bill and excise tax on edible and inedible foreign oils; and opposing Boileau bill which would tax all oleomargarine five cents a pound;

Instructing Legislative Committee to co-operate with Bureau of Agricultural Economics in preparing bill for compulsory grading and stamping of beef;

Urging Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to enable Interstate Commerce Commission to carry on work efficiently; expressing appreciation to railroads for drought rates; urging extension of Emergency Transportation Act; and commending Co-ordinator Joseph B. Eastman;

Urging repeal of provision in Motor Carrier Act governing (1) certificates of necessity, (2) contract-carrier permits, and (3) rates, pending consummation of various proposed changes concerning railroads;

Urging repeal of Section 7 (b) of Emergency Transportation Act, and consolidation and other economies;

Requesting six-cent tariff on green cattle hides;

Demanding labeling of shoes to show leather content;

Asking co-operation between members of association and peace officers and brand inspectors in apprehending violators of live-stock laws;

Commending work of Biological Survey in eradicating predatory animals;

Indorsing activities of National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board and work of National Live Stock and Meat Board;

Thanking all organizations and individuals who contributed to success of convention.

At 9 A. M. Friday the convention convened for a tour of inspection of feeding operations in the Salt River Valley, attendance at a specially prepared stock show, and examination of the Tovrea packing plant. A short speaking program and a barbecue followed.

Election of Officers

Albert K. Mitchell, Albert, New Mexico, was chosen to head the organization as president, taking the place of Charles E. Collins, who had served for the past four years. Hubbard Russell, of Los Angeles, California, was elected first vice-president. The second vice-presidents are Frank S. Boice, Sonoita, Arizona; Fred A. Hobart, Canadian, Texas; Herman Oliver, John Day, Oregon; J. Elmer Brock, Kaycee, Wyoming; and Thomas Jones, Midland, South Dakota.

F. E. Mollin, Denver, Colorado, was reappointed secretary-treasurer; and Charles E. Blaine, Phoenix, Arizona, traffic counsel.

El Paso was chosen as next year's meeting-place.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

BY CHARLES E. COLLINS

Kit Carson, Colorado

FOUR YEARS AGO, WHEN THE CONVENTION AT San Antonio called upon me to assume the presidency of this association, I must confess that I accepted with considerable misgivings. The morale of the country was at low ebb, and the western cattleman, taking a loss on every animal sold, lacked both the heart and the money properly to support such an organization. As the depression continued, however, the old spirit that made possible the development of the cattle industry in a far-flung country, with hazards at every hand, reasserted itself, and cattlemen from all the western states have rallied to our cause in a manner that leaves no doubt as to their determination to see the thing through no matter what the odds. It is, therefore, with great satisfaction and some pride—pardonable, I hope, under the circumstances—that I can at the close of this convention turn the

gavel over to my successor, after four years of rather strenuous activity, with the knowledge that the program of the association during that period has been considerably expanded, and Secretary Mollin and I feel that with the help of the Legislative Committee the accomplishments have been substantial. Our base support is now broader than ever before. The operating deficit, amounting to \$6,883.26 on January 1, 1932, at which time I took the helm, has been practically wiped out. I do not mean to infer that we have solved all the problems of the cattle industry—that time will never arrive—but I do believe that we have squarely met the important issues as they have come up, and have done everything possible to protect your interests therein.

Although I shall later go into some detail as to current matters of interest, the report of our secretary and of Chairman Russell, of the Legislative Committee, will cover much of the work of the association during the past year. Today it seems to me that the national problems which are of concern to every citizen outweigh in importance the immediate problems of our own industry, and therefore at this time I should like to give you my views on some of these broader questions.

Ever since the present administration first rose to power I have watched with a great deal of interest the activities of the Department of Agriculture, and I am still at a loss to understand just what are the hopes or objectives of the adjustment administrators.

Observing their activities from the sidelines and listening to the talks of many co-workers of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, one would naturally come to the conclusion that what they have in mind is that, if permitted to run the farmers and ranchers and control all those who process or handle farm products in any way, they will finally be able to put agriculture on such a safe and sound basis that no one engaged in the business will ever go broke or lose money. If that is the goal, and if it can be reached, I am for it 100 per cent. If that is not the ultimate goal, then why all this hurrah? If the various plans and programs which have been proposed and put into operation by the AAA will not eliminate the chance of failure, surely nothing will have been gained; for if one is going to lose money, or go broke, he is not particular under what system it is done.

However, I cannot visualize a system so devised or perfected that individuals or corporations engaged in business of any kind will be assured success. Some of them are bound to go broke, and others cannot help but lose money. Russia is the only country I know of which has eliminated that hazard, and I am wondering whether that is the destiny our government has in mind.

I have devoted the greater part of the last forty-five years to the study of agricultural and ranching problems (and I have been engaged in the business during all of that time). I have written several plans which I thought were workable and would solve our economic troubles. But after further analysis of my plans, and taking into consideration the constant changes in our economic life, with the hundreds of new and different varieties of food products, both grown and manufactured, and the shifting from one thing to another, I have been able to see that my plans would not work, and time has proved that they would not have worked. The whole AAA program is purely and simply experimental. There is no precedent or authority to justify the belief that it will work. On the contrary, we have many of them to prove that it will not work.

Agriculture and ranching have been upset ever since the close of the war, due almost entirely to the agitation of the leaders of farm organizations, farm papers, and demagogues

*Delivered at the thirty-ninth annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association, held at Phoenix, Arizona, January 7-10, 1936.

holding out hopes to the farmers and ranchers that the government was going to step in and do something for them which would restore to them their so-called war-time prosperity. As a matter of fact, that was the period in which most of their troubles were created. If our lawmakers had had the courage, as did President Cleveland in 1887, to tell them in the beginning that it was not the function of the government to support the people, but that the people must support the government, the farmers would have gone to thinking and by now would have solved their own problems individually.

The only remedy I know of is the one in which a nation guarantees that equal rights and justice shall prevail for all, with special privilege to none. When that is done, then it is up to the individuals or corporations, and if during days of prosperity they do not set aside a reserve to tide them over periods of depression, they are bound to fail. We are always going to have good and bad times, as we always have had; for one breeds the other.

One would think, to hear some of the New Dealers talk, that hard times and discontent were something new. But they are not—they are just as old as government itself, even in this country.

I quote from a speech made by Daniel Webster before the United States Senate in 1828, in which he said:

"There are persons who constantly clamor; they complain of oppression, speculation and pernicious influence of accumulated wealth.

"They cry out loud against all banks and corporations and all means by which small capitalists become united in order to produce important and beneficial results. They carry on mad hostility against all established institutions. They would choke the fountain of industry and dry all streams.

"In a country of unbounded liberty, they clamor against oppression. In a country of perfect equality, they would move heaven and earth against privilege and monopoly. In a country where property is more evenly divided than anywhere else, they rend the air, shouting agrarian doctrines. In a country where wages of labor are high beyond parallel, they would teach the laborer he is but an oppressed slave.

"Sir, what can such men want? What do they mean? They want nothing, sir, but to enjoy the fruits of another man's labor."

One would hardly believe that a speech delivered 107 years ago would so closely fit the present times.

Another apt quotation is one from a great statesman and a beloved Democratic President, the late Woodrow Wilson, which I think is appropriate to quote at this time, so that you may know the odds that are against the AAA program. In one of his books, the late ex-President said:

"I do not want to live under a philanthropy. I do not want to be taken care of by the government. . . . I want only to have right and justice prevail, so far as I am concerned. Give me right and justice, and I will undertake to take care of myself. I will not live under trustees, if I can help it. I do not care how wise, how patriotic the trustees may be, I have never heard of any group of men in whose hands I am willing to trust the liberties of the American people."

More important to cattlemen, sheepmen, corn- and hog-growers, and wheat- and cotton-producers, than all the fancied abuses to agriculture in the past, is the preservation of our American form of government and the fundamental rights of farmers and ranchers to conduct their business in their own way without the dictation of a political agency in Washington.

I have reached an age now when I can say that I have lived a long time, and looking back over the long trail of ups and downs I am unable to find where my efforts for success have been handicapped or hampered by discriminatory laws

against my business—at least no more so than in the case of other lines of business. As far as I have been able to trace, the cause of failure or lack of success in farming and ranching is due about 99 per cent to the individual himself and the inevitable laws of nature, and not to unjust laws of our government.

It is quite natural for people during periods of distress to call upon their government for help, and it is proper that they should, provided the fault lies within the government itself. The function of government toward the support of its people is a subject of grave importance, and should be indulged in only with great care, as the danger lying ahead is beyond calculation. The result of such a program at this very moment is threatening the destruction of our democratic form of government, and if continued it will complete the job.

In all history there is no record of such a wild, extravagant demonstration of a government supporting the people as exists at the present time in our own country. The common expression is that the President has a "bear by the tail" and cannot turn loose. Others say he does not want to turn loose until after the next election.

In this, my last address to you as president of your association, I want to warn all the young men as they journey through life not to be misled by brain-trusters and snake-charmers into believing that any political party can guarantee to you security in the so-called abundant life so beautifully portrayed by our President. It just cannot be done on this earth. Those are some of the rewards promised, to be fulfilled by our Saviour, to those who qualify for entry into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Committee of Five

One thing of which our association can be proud is that through the activities of its members and the Committee of Five it has been able to prevent the adoption of a cattle program and a processing tax in connection with it. This committee was recognized in Washington as the official representative of the western cattle industry, and its persistent activities brought it general recognition. It worked in harmony with the administration wherever it was consistent to do so, but did not hesitate at any time to stand up for what it thought was to the best interest of the cattlemen. Had it not been for its recognized standing with the cattlemen of the West, it would not have been possible for all five members of the committee to have been named as members of the Committee of Twenty-five appointed by Harry Petrie and Chester Davis, and, except for the influence it had among other members of the Committee of Twenty-five, we should no doubt by this time be paying a processing tax on our cattle to help pay the corn-hog benefits.

The Cattle Outlook

You will hear a great deal in the next few weeks about the sharp increase in cattle numbers. At the time this is written, forty-one states have reported on the new cattle census, showing a total of 47,958,000 cattle on January 1, 1935, as compared with 43,010,000 originally estimated for these states. If the same rate of increase is continued in the remaining seven states, most of which are heavy cattle producers, representatives of the bureau indicate that the census figure for January 1, 1935, will be between 67,000,000 and 68,000,000, compared with the original estimate on that date of 60,667,000. The census taken five years ago was based on April 1, and while calves born between January 1 and April 1 were not counted, no allowance was made for the substantial slaughter in that period. Therefore, comparisons that

are made between the new census and the April 1, 1930, census are misleading unless adjusted to a comparable basis.

There will be those who will urge that we should give serious thought to a cattle program because of this apparent sharp increase in numbers. To my mind the figures represent largely an adjustment of the base figures to nearer a proper basis. It is not an actual increase. The cattle were already there, and the market for the past year has proved its ability to handle the available supply. It has been known for years, and confirmed beyond question during the operation of the drought cattle-purchase program, that in many areas the actual cattle numbers far exceeded the government estimate. The important thing is how many go to market and are consumed—not how many the government estimates to be on hand.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act was adopted as an emergency relief measure. The attempt to transform it into a permanent government agency seems to me unwise. I do not believe we can solve our problems through the adoption of a cattle-reduction program. I have only to point to the operation of the wheat-control program in Kansas. That state is in the heart of the winter-wheat belt; it has been the center of the greatest activity to control production; and yet the government acreage report just released shows the largest wheat acreage ever planted in that state. For the country as a whole, with a favorable season in both the winter- and spring-wheat territories, there is the possibility of the largest wheat crop ever produced. If time permitted, it would be easy to show that the planned agricultural program is not proving the success which was anticipated and so widely heralded.

It is high time that more attention was paid to the growing cost of distribution and the consequently bigger spread between the producer and the consumer. So far as the future is concerned, I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet. It would be idle to attempt predictions without knowing what is to be the future course of our government, with its manifold activities today, affecting not only the costs of production and the costs of distribution, but also the available purchasing power. The success of your business and mine depends today entirely upon the general business stability of the nation.

Reciprocal Trade Agreements

Now, as to some of the matters immediately concerning the welfare of our industry: It seems to me that the first in importance is the question of the tariff. Under the Reciprocal Trade Act, passed some eighteen months ago, a dozen or so agreements have been negotiated and part of them are already in force. Not widely heralded, the true course of the tariff policy of the present administration did not fully come home to us until the adoption of the Canadian reciprocal trade agreement, which went into effect on January 1. It had been the common belief when the Reciprocal Trade Act was passed that it was to facilitate trade in commodities between nations, assuming, of course, that such trade would be limited to commodities needed by each of the respective nations. It was never dreamed of by the public at large, nor do I believe it was the intent of the lawmakers, to grant blanket power to the President to reduce tariffs on commodities of which this nation produces a supply fully adequate to domestic consumption. Therefore, the Canadian agreement came as something of a shock to the producers of cattle, dairy products, hay, potatoes, lumber, and many other commodities. It would appear that, instead of being an instrument to remove restrictions which have hampered legitimate

trade between nations, the prime purpose of the Reciprocal Trade Act is subtly to effect the gradual lowering of the tariff on many of the major agricultural products. To this extent it is a step backward to the days when the industrialists of the East dominated the writing of a tariff bill. Their aim always was to keep agricultural products on the free-list to the greatest possible extent and constantly "up" the tariff on the products of their own industries.

It may be claimed that the Canadian trade agreement by itself will not seriously cripple any of the industries mentioned. In the case of cattle, the quota restrictions are such that the total number permitted entry at the reduced rates is not a large percentage of the total annual slaughter in this country. The point is, however, that we do not need them, no matter how small the number, and I do not need to remind this audience of the fact that a small surplus of cattle in any given market on any given day has an effect in breaking the price out of all proportion to the percentages involved. The new cattle census taken as of January 1, 1935, which I have already referred to, clearly indicates that an adequate supply of cattle is available for all current or prospective domestic needs.

The real menace contained in the Canadian trade agreement is in the precedent thus established. It shows that agriculture can no longer depend upon the protection it has formerly enjoyed, but must operate with the threat constantly hanging over it of further tariff cuts as treaty after treaty is being negotiated. What the full extent of the danger may be, time alone can tell. Those who have studied the treaties already negotiated, and have seen the effect of the Cuban treaty, with its much greater increase in imports than in exports, predict that, as usual, Uncle Sam has been out-traded.

Argentine Sanitary Convention

It would seem that sufficient trouble was in sight so far as tariff matters are concerned without adding to them the attempt to remove the sanitary embargo against meat products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease is known to exist. Nevertheless the Secretary of State and his assistants, with substantial help from the leading officials of the Department of Agriculture, are pressing for the ratification of a sanitary convention with Argentina, which would in effect nullify the protection against disease guaranteed us in Section 306-a of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. With by far the greater percentage of the cattle-producing countries of the world hopelessly infected with foot-and-mouth disease, it is unthinkable that there should be any relaxation in the measures which have been in force since January 1, 1927, and which have completely prevented outbreaks of the disease in this country during that period, with the single exception of a small outbreak in California in 1929, originating in, and largely confined to, garbage-fed hogs. This assembly should urge that its officers and Legislative Committee leave no stone unturned to bring about the rejection of this dangerous pact.

Beef Grading

As to the grading of dressed beef, I believe I have the distinction—if it is a distinction—to be the first one who ever proposed such service. About thirty years ago I took the subject up with James Wilson, then Secretary of Agriculture, and we had considerable correspondence about it. I also took it up with a number of cattlemen, but the subject was new and given but little consideration, and for years nothing was done. As time went on, though, it was taken up by the government, and finally standard grades were established in 1927, which are

being used now on a voluntary basis. It has proved quite popular in many places and has shown a constant growth. Some cities have adopted ordinances compelling grading, which, it is said, are working out very well.

The grading of dressed beef is a subject that should be given careful thought and consideration before it is gone into on a nation-wide compulsory scale. It is not so simple a proposition as it appears to be on its face.

If it were possible for us to make an investigation down East among retail stores and meat shops on our own account, and find out from them what they think about it, it should be done. The retailers are the ones who finally dispose of at least 90 per cent of our products. Another thing to be considered in compulsory government grading is that it would be effective only as to meat in interstate commerce; therefore, before very effective use could be made of it, each state would have to pass a similar law. It seems to me that the proper way to get the service going would be to start in the cities, and if it proves popular and profitable to producers, then it can be taken up by the government. To be sound and effective, it must necessarily grow slowly in order that mistakes may be avoided which would discredit it.

I do not want to be regarded as opposing this move. On the other hand, I do not want to come out unqualifiedly for something that I know is not half so easy to solve as some people believe. I feel that all experimental projects should go forward very slowly until they are proved to be sound. Had this policy been followed by the New Dealers, I am sure we should not now be in the mixup in which we find ourselves with regard to government affairs.

Two years ago we appointed a special committee to consider the matter, and they have studied considerable data bearing on this question since that time. Their report will be submitted during the closing days of the convention.

Farm Credit Administration

The production credit associations seem to be serving the live-stock industry well in most regions. There has been some complaint over the too conservative policy of the Federal Land Banks in making loans on improved ranches or on unimproved grazing lands offered as additional security. In many cases it is claimed that the loans offered little more than covered the cost of fences, improvements, and ditches. Strange to say, in some cases marginal lands put under the plow seem to be rated better than similar lands left in their natural state of grass growth. I urge that the Federal Land Banks adopt a more consistent policy, and one giving full recognition to the proper value of grazing areas.

Biological Survey

Stockmen generally have approved the work of this organization, especially in relation to predatory-animal and rodent control. Under present appropriations it has been found impossible to answer all complaints and furnish help where needed. However, during the past year some emergency funds have been available to the Survey, and they have been used largely in rodent-control work, leaving most of the regular appropriation available for predatory-animal control. Inasmuch as these emergency funds will not be available much longer, it is important that the regular appropriation should be stepped up as fast as possible to the basis contemplated in the ten-year program, so that adequate protection can be furnished to ranchers and farmers.

Forest Service

The situation with regard to the Forest Service remains unsettled. Annual permits only are being issued, and continued

cuts for distribution are causing great damage to many long established ranches. Under such conditions it is not surprising that there has been much dissatisfaction. Anyone at all familiar with the live-stock industry knows how utterly impossible it is intelligently to plan ranch operations from year to year when constantly subject to the threat of sharp reductions in the number of animals that may be grazed under a forest permit. This lack of stability is demoralizing to the operator, prevents adequate and satisfactory financing, and is a condition that should not be imposed.

Public Domain

Progress in the administration under the Taylor Grazing Act has been much slower than anticipated. Too much time apparently has been spent in political maneuvering—trying to amend the law to suit the whims of the administrative officers, rather than trying to administer the law to serve the industry, as was its purpose. Now that the President has vetoed the amendments passed by the last Congress—a veto which is generally regarded by the users of the public domain as unwise and not well founded—and that Secretary Ickes has had the good judgment to reappoint F. R. Carpenter as director of grazing, it would seem that the path is clearing for action authorized under the various sections of the act. It is of paramount importance that the grazing administration be left as an independent unit in the Department of the Interior, and that the control be left as largely as possible to the local advisory boards. Otherwise it will be completely submerged in the long established bureaus of the Department of the Interior, and the advisory boards will gradually sink into oblivion, as was the case with the Forest Service.

Range Conditions

While we are on the subject of public lands, it might be timely to call attention to the remarkable recovery which has been made in range conditions during the past year. Despite all the talk about the "Great American Desert," and the extravagant stories about erosion and the ruination of the ranges, it is interesting to note that on December 1 range conditions for the western states were 81 per cent of normal, compared with 58 a year ago and with a ten-year average of 79.6 per cent. Actually hay has been cut in certain areas right on the range where government experts had claimed 75 per cent of the grass was dead. This recovery has not been due to any unusually excellent season, but simply to what might be called a reasonably normal one. The stockmen, instead of being the range destroyers that they are so often pictured, are real conservators when given half a chance. The return to normal conditions after the lapse of only a year following the worst drought ever recorded substantiates that fact.

Excise Taxes

A drive has recently been inaugurated by the dairy interests to place a tax of 5 cents a pound upon all oleomargarine manufactured from domestic fats and oils. It is claimed that this is merely an offset to balance the difference in cost of production. By some magical process figures are brought forth to prove that the dairy industry pays all the taxes, while the producers and processors of domestic fats and oils in some unexplained fashion escape. This proves nothing except the old adage that figures do not lie, but that liars continue to figure. If anyone in this audience knows of any producer in any industry who escapes taxation in this day of taxes every time you turn around, I should like to know who that individual is and find out how he does it. It is unthinkable that Congress would pass a bill placing such a discriminatory tax

upon a wholesome, nutritious domestic food product. It is just as unthinkable that the President would sign such a bill, adding 5 cents a pound to the cost of a much needed food, purchased of necessity by millions of our underprivileged people. Levying a tax of 5 cents a pound upon oleomargarine does not put into the pockets of poor people money with which to buy butter, and even the dairy producers, in their demand for entirely selfish preferential treatment at the hands of Congress, are no longer powerful enough completely to ignore the interests of the consumers.

Purely aside from this element of discrimination, there is another angle of equal importance. We have exhausted practically every means of taxation in this country except the field of excise taxes. If it is found possible to pass an excise tax of 5 cents a pound upon a domestic food product for no other purpose than the placing of revenue in Uncle Sam's coffers, as would be the case in this instance, then we will have opened up a new and practically unlimited field of taxation. Butter could be taxed, bread, meat, milk, and a thousand other things. It is regrettable that the two great national farm organizations of this country, dominated largely by dairy producers and with no concern for the producers of beef fats in the West or of cottonseed oil in the South, within recent weeks indorsed this tax.

In closing I want to take this opportunity to thank the other officials, the members of the various committees, and the officials of the affiliated associations for the wonderful co-operation which we have constantly had. It has been a pleasure to work with you and for you, and I bespeak for my successor the same enthusiastic co-operation which you have at all times given me. May the association live long and prosper, and may the cattlemen and cattlemen assembled here today meet with us many times in the future.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

BY F. E. MOLLIN
Denver, Colorado

IN MAKING THIS, MY SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT as your secretary, I want first to acknowledge the splendid co-operation which has been given both to my office and that of Mr. Blaine, here in Phoenix, by President Collins, the Legislative Committee, the members of the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the state and local associations, and every individual whom we have found it necessary to call upon in one way or another. I think it is fair to say that we have had a spirit of co-operation and some real teamwork that have made the efforts of the association just that much more effective, and the accomplishments just that much more beneficial. During the past two years, in particular, it has been necessary to expand the program of our activities so materially that without such co-operation we should have been hopelessly entangled. As it is, the heavy work has put a severe strain upon our comparatively small office force, and I wish to take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging the fine loyalty of all those who have had a part in the work of the association.

AAA Amendments

Our first activity in the legislative field dealt with the amendments to the Agricultural Adjustment Act. It has been our policy so far as possible not to oppose any amendments sought by farm groups, no matter how unsound we might have considered them, provided they did not directly and adversely

affect our own industry. Therefore, although there was a bitter fight made over the licensing amendments to the Agricultural Adjustment Act, we did not participate in that fight because of the fact that live stock and live-stock products were soon eliminated from the items affected thereby. The Legislative Committee, after careful consideration of the matter, authorized me to take the stand before the House Committee on Agriculture, and my testimony, published in the March, 1935, issue of the AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER, shows that we made a few constructive suggestions relating to the general provisions of the act; but we confined our main attack to the proposal to place a processing tax on cattle, sheep, and butterfat for the benefit of the Corn Belt. The report of our Legislative Committee will deal more fully with this matter, so I shall not go into detail on the subject here.

Fats and Oils

The Executive Committee a year ago, after conferring at length with C. O. Moser, then president of the Institute of American Fats and Oils, authorized my acceptance of a non-salaried position as vice-president of that organization. We co-operated with the Institute to secure favorable legislation designed to expand the outlet for domestically produced fats and oils, and also with the object of preventing the passage of additional unfavorable legislation such as has been sponsored by the dairy industry for many years, and to amend wherever possible existing laws containing unjust taxes or other discriminatory provisions, so that oleomargarine made 100 per cent from domestic fats and oils might be exempted.

Hearings were held before the House Committee on Agriculture on the Kleberg bill, which was originally sponsored by our association before the Institute of American Fats and Oils was formed, and which calls for a tax of 10 cents a pound on all margarine not manufactured 100 per cent from domestic fats and oils. I was the first witness to appear in support of the bill. Congressman Kleberg is a member of that committee and is leading the fight for the passage of this legislation. No action was taken by the committee before adjournment of the last Congress, but the matter will be under consideration again at the present session.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the dairy industry, instead of co-operating to secure the passage of this bill, which would reduce the competition between butter and low-priced foreign-oil margarines, is continuing to fight for total exclusion of margarine from the grocery stores and markets of this country, and is urging the passage of a bill which would place a tax of 5 cents a pound upon all margarine, whether manufactured from domestic or foreign fats and oils.

During the year I appeared before several state legislatures where measures similar to the Kleberg bill were under consideration, and it is a pleasure to report that since our association actively undertook a campaign to prevent the elimination of margarine in this country, sixteen states have enacted laws placing the industry upon a domestic-fat basis, and practically no adverse legislation has been passed to exclude it. Prior to the time of our activity the dairy industry was fast gaining its objective, state by state, of eliminating the sale of margarine either by high taxes, high license fees, or other restrictive provisions.

Since the death of Mr. Moser last summer, the future status of the Institute of American Fats and Oils is in doubt. If it is disbanded, our association will continue independently its support of the program outlined above.

Capper-Hope-Wearin Bills

There were no hearings held on marketing legislation during the last session of Congress. Senator Capper, however,

*Submitted at the thirty-ninth annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association, held at Phoenix, Arizona, January 7-10, 1936.

succeeded in getting his revised bill reported out of committee in the closing days of Congress, although we had previously been advised that hearings would be held if any action was to be taken. We have been assured that no anti direct-marketing legislation of the type of the Capper bill can be passed in the House; and, with so many friends in the House Committee on Agriculture who have a thorough understanding of live-stock and marketing problems, at least we can expect fair treatment and proper consideration. Doubtless the commission men, who are the sponsors of these bills, will press for action at this session of Congress, and with the Capper bill on the calendar a showdown is therefore quite likely.

The Packers and Stock-Yards Administration has submitted to the chairmen of both the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture certain amendments to the act for the express purpose of facilitating the administration of the act. These amendments have been referred to our Legislative Committee for its recommendation, but the unfair restrictions sought to be imposed on direct marketing in the other bills referred to are entirely missing from the administration amendments.

Tariff

We have filed briefs detailing our objection to tariff cuts in all reciprocal trade agreements which have been negotiated where there is any serious threat to the cattle industry involved. I must confess, however, that the filing of these briefs is merely a gesture, and there is no indication that the slightest heed is given to such protests. As a matter of fact, the procedure in the matter is as follows:

A certain date is set for the filing of briefs. A week thereafter an open hearing is held before a committee from the United States Tariff Commission. The briefs and the oral testimony are solemnly considered by this committee. Later the reciprocal trade agreements are secretly written by an entirely different committee, so that it would appear that the participation of the Tariff Commission is merely a formality and a pretense of giving the affected industries an opportunity to be heard.

I do not believe that this method of writing a tariff bill, or rather tearing one to pieces, will long be permitted in a democratic country like the United States. The log-rolling methods employed in the past in the writing of tariffs have been the subject of much censure, but at least everybody who had a protest to make was given the opportunity of making it before the people who actually wrote the bill, and their representatives in Congress had a vote upon the final measure before it was sent to the President's desk for his signature.

The Florida Agricultural Tariff Association has already started suit to test the constitutionality of the Reciprocal Trade Act. Very likely bills will be introduced calling for its repeal, and other bills calling for submission to the Senate for ratification of any treaty negotiated under the act. I venture to state that had the Canadian reciprocal trade agreement been referred to the Senate for ratification it would have substantially failed of the necessary two-thirds majority because of the cuts made upon numerous agricultural commodities, to say nothing of other products—lumber in particular.

We had splendid co-operation from our affiliated associations in sending protests to Washington when the conclusion of the Canadian agreement seemed imminent. These protests were, however, completely ignored and the tariff on cattle was cut, as has already been widely heralded. There has been a storm of protest from all over the country by producers of the many commodities affected by the tariff cuts imposed upon them through this agreement.

Argentine Sanitary Pact

Early last summer Secretary Hull secretly negotiated a sanitary agreement with Argentina, under which imports of meat products would be accepted from zones in that country declared to be free of foot-and-mouth disease. The present law will not permit importations of either live animals or dressed live-stock products from any country where foot-and-mouth disease is known to exist. The first intimation the country had of this proposed pact was when it leaked out from Washington that the treaty was to be considered at an executive session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We immediately communicated with all the affiliated state associations and with numerous senators in Washington, demanding that public hearings be held; and as a result the scheduled executive hearing was postponed from time to time and a promise finally given that public hearings would be held. No action was taken at the last session of Congress, but no doubt pressure for its ratification will be exerted by the many interests devoted to the development of foreign trade, and we may expect action within the near future. Unfortunately the campaign to put over this convention has not been conducted upon a very high plane. A great deal has been said about Patagonia, and the inference given that it is a small and relatively unimportant territory. The claim is advanced that it is largely a sheep-raising country; that foot-and-mouth disease has never been known to exist there; that the only possible effect of ratification of the proposed convention would be the importation of inconsequential numbers of lamb carcasses from that region; and that it is so isolated by mountain, ocean, and desert as to be entirely apart from the disease-infected provinces.

In the first place, Patagonia is not a province or a political subdivision. It is a more or less indefinite region, but according to all information available it extends from the province of Santa Cruz on the extreme south of Argentina through the provinces of Chubut and Rio Negro, and includes parts of the provinces of Neuquen and La Pampa. The latter province (La Pampa), according to the records of the Bureau of Animal Industry, is partly, and perhaps wholly, in the area heavily infected with foot-and-mouth disease. I call your attention to the map of the Argentine Republic which I have posted on the bulletin board. I have indicated thereon the cattle and sheep population of each of the five provinces which comprise the region known as Patagonia—approximately one-third of the entire area of the Argentine Republic. You will note that there are substantial numbers of cattle produced in all those provinces except Santa Cruz.

The region is not isolated. It already contains foot-and-mouth disease, and the north end of it lies adjacent to the province of Buenos Aires, which has more than 11,000,000 cattle, according to the latest information available, and which is heavily infected with foot-and-mouth disease. In fact, it would appear that the ideal condition which numerous high officials have attributed to the entire region of Patagonia applies only to the one province of Santa Cruz, where there are practically no cattle.

I have spent a great deal of time in studying the proposed convention and in preparing our defense to it. That defense was outlined in an address that I made to the National Foreign Trade Council at Houston, Texas, November 19. I have gone into greater detail in a pamphlet that is now on the press and which fully briefs our opposition to this dangerous pact. I had hoped to have it prepared in time for distribution here, but found it impossible to do so. A few samples should reach me by mail before the convention is over. Every member will receive one, and so far as possible every person registered at this convention. In view of the fact that this agree-

ment has to go to the Senate for acceptance by a two-thirds majority, I still believe that it will fail of ratification.

Our Traffic Department

I shall not go into detail as to the activities of our Traffic Department. Mr. Blaine's report will be published in a forthcoming issue of THE PRODUCER for all to see. It has been a year of continuous activity, and not only has there been substantial accomplishment in major cases, but in the minor field of individual service to stockmen members his work has been tremendously increased. More and more stockmen are availing themselves of this opportunity to be sure that they are paying correct freight charges. This is not intended in any way as a criticism of the railroads; but many of the local agents are not sufficiently posted on tariffs to render accurate information, and even the auditing offices, with thousands of bills to handle, occasionally make mistakes.

I should like to mention two or three of the highlights, however, of the past year. The Interstate Commerce Commission refused to grant the request of midwestern packers for lower freight rates on dressed meats to the Pacific coast. This is of substantial benefit to the entire western live-stock industry, materially reducing competition in the western markets and preventing the dumping at those points of surplus meat products from the Missouri River markets.

In *Ex Parte 115*, known as the emergency freight-charge case, the commission, while granting increases on numerous commodities, exempted live stock, hay, grain, and certain other farm commodities.

The commission refused to grant the Union Pacific System authority to close the Ogden gateway on eastbound shipments originating in Utah, Nevada, and California if not routed entirely over that system.

In April a traffic conference was called by the American National at Denver, to which representatives of producers, packers, the stock-yards companies, and the exchanges were invited, and a very interesting and helpful discussion of pending traffic problems resulted. Recently we have taken up independently with the four large packers the question of restoring the sale-in-transit privilege on fat cattle from the same territory in which it was recently restored to fat sheep, and we are glad to report that there will be no objection on their part. Consequently Mr. Blaine has the matter docketed with the Southwestern and Western Trunk Line Freight Bureaus, and we are hopeful that this transit privilege on fat cattle will soon be republished.

Commission Rates

The old-line commission men at Chicago, Kansas City, and Denver continue to oppose, by every legal and technical means at their command, the application of the lower rates ordered by the secretary, acting under the authority conferred on him in the Packers and Stock-Yards Act. Thousands upon thousands of dollars have been spent in legal fees to prevent a reasonable reduction on commission rates. This is perhaps one of the major reasons why the co-operatives at those markets have forged steadily to the front. In every instance where the secretary has ordered lower rates the co-operatives have immediately put them into effect. At this writing hundreds of thousands of dollars belonging to the producers are impounded at the three markets mentioned, awaiting the outcome of the involved legal tangle. The Kansas City case in particular has been in court now for several years.

Taylor Grazing Act

We arranged a joint conference with representatives of the National Wool Growers' Association at the time of the special

meeting held at Denver last February. When the amendments to the act were under consideration at Washington, we co-operated with congressmen who were fighting in the interest of the live-stock industry; and, while the amendments finally adopted in conference were vetoed by the President, at least no essential parts of the act were stricken out as was attempted. It is generally believed that in the present session of Congress the department will be unable to get amendments through that will be any more to its liking than the ones vetoed.

Recently we were active in calling the President's attention to the necessity of maintaining the Taylor Grazing Administration as a separate unit, and strongly urged the reappointment of F. R. Carpenter as director of grazing. It seems that officials of some of the old established bureaus in that department thought the time had arrived to take over this new administration—and they all but got the job done. This would have meant the end of local control, on which basis the act was sold to the industry. Only quick work on the part of a united industry saved the day.

Forest Service

We have protested vigorously against the present policy of the Forest Service in doling out one-year tenures with practically unlimited cuts for distribution, made as pleases best the fancy of the officials, and have finally succeeded, after several years of complete indifference on the part of the Service toward stockmen's advisory boards, in arranging for a conference to be held at Washington within the near future. In arranging this conference it was agreed that no further cuts for distribution would be made in the interim. It seems regrettable that the good relations which had been developed between the live-stock industry and the Forest Service should be so seriously threatened by this sudden shift in policy—the discontinuance of the term permits, and the refusal even to confer with the national advisory committees, as called for in the regulations of the department.

American Cattle Producer

I regret very much to report the death, occurring on September 8, 1935, of Louis Warming, who had been editor of THE PRODUCER ever since it was started. Mr. Warming had been wholeheartedly devoted to his duties, and had maintained a high standard of quality in his work that was the envy of all his competitors. David O. Appleton, for many years business manager for the magazine, has taken over Mr. Warming's work and is performing it very creditably. It is a pleasure to report that the path of the magazine, after years of roughness when the going was hard through the depression, seems a little easier. Subscriptions are picking up materially, and there has recently been a drift back toward magazines of this type on the part of advertisers. I urge the co-operation of the state and local associations in seeing that THE PRODUCER is placed in the hands of as many members of our industry as possible.

Organization

I think we can say that the western cattle industry is better organized today than ever before in its history. The associations in North Dakota and Washington have become more active. Idaho was reorganized during the past year; Nevada a year ago. In Oklahoma, which has been without a state association, the Wichita Cattlemen's Association is already planning to take the step from a local to a state organization; we can also report the addition to our membership this year of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association. This aggressive group of stockmen has given us splendid co-operation in various legislative matters. During the year I attended state conventions in sixteen of the seventeen states in which we have

affiliated associations, and, in addition, I have addressed as many local gatherings as my time would permit. The program of the American National has been enthusiastically supported in all the meetings which I have attended.

It had been my hope to be able to report that we had entirely wiped out our deficit. Two years ago we started in with a deficit exceeding \$7,200. Last year we just about cut that in two; and this year, while we have not been able quite to wipe it out, it is reduced to \$944.76, and the funds received during this meeting will put us on the right side of the ledger for the first time in more than five years, despite increased activity and expenses. I cannot tell you what a relief it is to me to be out of the red. I hope that few of you have had such a long continued experience of operating under a deficit. It is no fun; it cramps your style, and reduces your effectiveness.

I have only this to say in closing: It seems to me particularly fitting that we should be meeting today in Arizona, which state has done more than any other to bring about the improved financial condition just referred to. And yet I do not believe that the money subscribed to the work of the American National has been a burden upon the stockmen of Arizona. It is not that they are giving too much, but rather that they have distributed the burden as it should be distributed, and brought into the fold practically every cattle-producer of this state. I feel that we have made substantial strides in organization, but there is much yet to do. If those attending this convention will go home and start similar activity in their own states, the American National can be amply financed for the first time in its history. I urge you to co-operate in thus increasing the membership and the power of this, your organization.

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN IN SESSION

ON DECEMBER 13-14, 1935, THE CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S Association held its annual convention in San Francisco. The following resolutions adopted at that meeting furnish a cross section of the attitude of the California stockmen on questions bearing on the live-stock industry:

Favoring passage of state and federal laws requiring grading and stamping of beef;

Requesting representation of agricultural and live-stock interests on state board handling land-utilization problems; favoring McCarran amendment to Taylor Grazing Act and asking that it be amended to include all public domain; expressing appreciation of action of Department of Interior in reappointing F. R. Carpenter as director of grazing; recommending appointment of grazing committee of five to co-operate in program of public-land utilization; and urging Forest Service to make no undue cuts in stock grazed, and that necessary cuts be based on grazing capacity of land;

Requesting annual appropriation of \$1,000,000 as provided under ten-year federal predatory-animal control program; urging passage of law to permit killing of bears in localities where they are menace to industry; and requesting legislation to provide reimbursement to land owners for use of property in taking care of wild game;

Requesting railroads in state to publish information about animals killed, showing sex, age, brand mark, etc., and that highway employees make known similar data before burying any animal killed, and urging that railroads be held liable for injury to live stock on their right-of-way; urging state highway department to build roads, fences, and trails necessary for safe movement of live stock; approving proposal to limit use of motor-vehicle fuel tax to highway purposes; favoring state and interstate bus service by railroads; demanding preservation of flexibility and economy of highway transportation, and opposing its restriction by monopolistic interests; advocating passage of Pettengill bill; and urging lower feeder-cattle rates in state;

Demanding every possible economy by those responsible for public expenditures; commending work of California Farm

Debt Adjustment Committee and County Conciliation Committee; objecting to burdensome restriction on sale of feed and agricultural products; and opposing proposal of one-house legislature and objecting to revision of state constitution;

Opposing processing tax; opposing Capper-Hope-Wearin bills or similar legislation; and objecting to efforts of butter interests to tax oleomargarine five cents a pound;

Urging Congress to do nothing to weaken co-operative farm movement;

Demanding retention of present safeguard against importation of live stock or its products from any country in which foot-and-mouth disease exists; condemning reduction in duties on cattle in Canadian trade agreement and urging repeal of Reciprocal Trade Act.

WYOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WYOMING Stock Growers' Association, meeting in Cheyenne on December 19, adopted the below summarized resolutions:

Urging immediate approval of duly established rules for Grazing District No. 1;

Urging more liberal policy by federal land bank, and suggesting that creation of new land-bank district in Rocky Mountain states would meet situation existing in that area;

Requesting issuance of ten-year permits in 1936 as only way fully to satisfy loan requirements of Farm Credit Administration and stabilize range operation, and opposing further cuts for distribution;

Indorsing Kleberg Bill and opposing five-cent tax on domestic margarine;

Protesting against modification of regulations prohibiting importation of live stock or its products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists;

Protesting against tariff cuts in Canadian agreement, and urging repeal of Reciprocal Trade Act unless policy pursued in trade agreements is changed;

Recommending that live stock sold through auction sales rings be subject to uniform brand and health inspection.

GRANT COUNTY (OREGON) STOCKMEN MEET

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GRANT COUNTY Stock Growers' Association was held in Canyon City, Oregon, on November 23. More than 100 stockmen attended the afternoon session, and thrice that number were at the banquet in the evening. Speakers from the state college, the principal markets, and the Forest Service expressed their views on live-stock problems.

Wayne Stewart, of Dayville, was elected president, and Ralph Brooke, of Canyon City, was chosen as secretary.

THE CALENDAR

January 16-18, 1936—Annual Convention of Montana Wool Growers' Association, Bozeman, Mont.

January 18-25, 1936—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.

January 20-21, 1936—Annual Convention Utah Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.

January 22, 1936—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, Albany Hotel, Denver, Colo.

January 22-24, 1936—Annual Convention of National Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.

February 18-19, 1936—Annual Convention of Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Tucson, Ariz.

February 20-23, 1936—Tucson Live Stock Show, Tucson, Ariz.

February 29-March 8, 1936—Houston Fat Stock Show, Houston, Tex.

March 7-11, 1936—San Angelo Fat Stock Show, San Angelo, Tex.

March 9-12, 1936—Amarillo Fat Stock Show, Amarillo, Tex.

March 10-12, 1936—Annual Convention of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Amarillo, Tex.

March 14-22, 1936—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.

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Volume XVII JANUARY, 1936 Number 8

ARGENTINE SANITARY PACT

EARLY LAST SUMMER, AS THE RESULT of secret negotiations between Secretary of State Hull and representatives of the Argentine government, there was submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a document known as the Argentine sanitary convention. Ever since that time, our diplomatic representatives, and unfortunately, it must be admitted, some of the free-trade advocates in the Department of Agriculture, have been urging its ratification. Plans were even made for consideration of the convention at an executive session, but there was a leak, the country was apprised of what was going on, and, as a result, no action has thus far been taken and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is now committed to the policy of holding open hearings.

The AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER can recall no recent parallel for the activities in behalf of this pact. Misrepresentations of all kinds have been cir-

culated freely, and unfortunately over the signatures of high ranking officials of both the Department of State and the Department of Agriculture. It is indeed a strange situation and a glaring contradiction to have the Agricultural Adjustment Administration claiming that the solution of the problems of agriculture is to restrict production and thus force prices upward, while at the same time the heads of the department are openly advocating increasing international trade by letting down the present barriers maintained against the imports of Argentine meats.

It is claimed by the proponents of the convention that the only effect of its ratification would be the importation of comparatively insignificant quantities of dressed lamb from Argentine Patagonia. It is inferred that this region is a comparatively small and unimportant one, that very few cattle are produced in it, that it is entirely free of foot-and-mouth disease, and that it is so completely isolated by mountains, desert, and ocean as to be removed from all danger of exposure to that disease. None of these statements will bear close inspection. The region known as Patagonia extends from the southern part of the province of Santa Cruz through the provinces of Chubut and Rio Negro, and into the provinces of Neuquen and La Pampa. According to the records of the Bureau of Animal Industry, La Pampa is partly, and perhaps wholly, in the region which is infected with foot-and-mouth disease. Furthermore, it is adjacent to the province of Buenos Aires, which has the most cattle of any province in the Argentine and is heavily infected with foot-and-mouth disease.

There are substantial numbers of cattle in all these provinces which comprise the region known as Patagonia except in the single province of Santa Cruz. The much advertised isolation, created by the mountain range on the west and the ocean on the east, is of no importance when it becomes known that part of the Patagonian region is already infected with foot-and-mouth disease and that other heavily infected areas lie next door.

The present embargo has proved its worth and enabled the United States to maintain its disease-free status. It is the result of careful consideration by sanitary officials who have had disheartening experience with the disease in previous outbreaks and can count the cost better than any diplomatic representative or free-trade advocate. It will be a sorry day for the live-stock industry of this country when our sanitary regulations are written by people whose objectives have nothing to do with the maintenance of animal health. The Argentine sanitary convention should be rejected unanimously by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Whatever sac-

rifices are to be made on the altar of free trade should be made by those who stand to benefit by them, and not at the risk of bringing complete ruin to the most important branch of American agriculture.

THE NEW CATTLE CENSUS

ON JANUARY 1, 1935, THE BUREAU OF Crop Estimates reported a cattle population for the United States of 60,667,000 cattle. At that time, it was known that these figures which were based on the 1930 census carried forward on estimates from year to year, were to be checked through the medium of the regular five-year census. At this writing (January 4), the returns on this new census, based on January 1, 1935, are at hand from forty-one of the forty-eight states. They show a total cattle population of 47,958,000 head compared with 43,010,000 head in the original estimate. If the same rate of increase is maintained in the seven remaining states—Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Texas, most of which are heavy cattle-producing states—there is indicated a revised estimate as of January 1, 1935, of between 67,000,000 and 68,000,000 cattle.

Two or three years ago, when the drought cattle purchase program was at its height, the country got very much alarmed, and wild estimates were put out that our cattle population would be reduced to as low a figure as 45,000,000 to 50,000,000 head. Now there will be alarm expressed that we are suddenly overproduced again. The AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER believes that there is as little cause for alarm now in regard to overproduction as there was for fear of a shortage only a short eighteen months ago. There has been no sudden increase of 7,000,000 cattle. It is merely an adjustment of the base figure to somewhere near the actual level. It is not so important whether the Bureau of Crop Estimates reports 60,000,000 cattle in this country or 70,000,000. The important thing is how many calves are produced each year and how many head of finished live stock go to market and into consumption. During the past year, the market has evidenced ability to absorb the current receipts at a fairly remunerative level of price. These receipts were much greater than anticipated, because of the fact that the drought cattle purchase program had not depopulated the country to anywhere near as great a degree as had been hastily assumed.

The new cattle census will prove to be useful if it inspires caution on the part of cattle producers to prevent overenthusiasm and to check later over-expansion. It is possible again to pile up numbers to an unwise degree. If cattle producers everywhere

will keep them rolling to market in sensible fashion, be content with running their usual numbers and not blossoming out into the status of cattle barons, it would seem that there is at present no special cause for alarm, although many alarms will doubtless be spread based on this apparent rather than actual increase in current numbers.

DAIRY-MINDED FARM ORGANIZATIONS

DURING RECENT WEEKS BOTH THE National Grange and the American Farm Bureau Federation, the two leading farm organizations of this country, have passed resolutions urging that a tax should be placed upon oleomargarine, even though manufactured 100 per cent from domestic fats and oils. In the case of the National Grange, such action was not particularly surprising. It is merely a reiteration of a position formerly announced, and is rather to be expected, in view of the fact that this organization has its greatest strength in the dairy sections of the eastern Corn Belt, the New England states, and the Northwest. The dairy industry has been well organized for many years and has become so accustomed to demanding preferential treatment over all other domestic industries that the action of the National Grange is merely a reflection of a typical dairy attitude.

In the case of the American Farm Bureau Federation such action is, to say the least, astonishing. Its greatest membership is in the Corn Belt, where the production of beef cattle and hogs outranks all other agricultural activities. In the West, this organization has held itself out to the producers of range cattle as being entirely sympathetic with their aims and ready and anxious to serve them in every way possible.

There is no precedent for the demand that an excise tax of this kind should be placed upon a domestic product. Purely aside from the rank discrimination against the producer of beef fats, cottonseed oil, peanut oil, and various other domestic fats and oils—a discrimination based on a purely selfish attitude on the part of the dairy industry—there is real danger in the precedent which would thus be established. During the past few years, legislatures in all our states and our national Congress have devoted more time to the problem of finding additional sources of taxation than they have to constructive legislative work. Little effort has been made to balance budgets, but the easy way has been taken of attempting to find ways of raising the moneys that a constantly increasing governmental expense demands. We have about every kind of taxes imaginable except excise taxes upon domesti-

cally produced foods and the processing thereof. If we start in on this new type of taxation, we are opening up a practically unlimited field which will in the end greatly damage, if not destroy, even those whom it pretends to serve. If we are to have a tax upon oleomargarine made entirely from domestic fats and oils and seek to justify it as a revenue measure, why not place a tax upon butter and raise ten times the amount, or a tax upon bread and meat, which everyone must use? Let us do the job right and be whole hog or none. Seriously, however, when we reach the point that the producers of one state or of one commodity are to be taxed in order to benefit the producers of another state or another commodity, we shall have reached a sorry state of affairs and one that will lead to endless grief and trouble.

Charles F. Coffee

THE DEATH ON DECEMBER 8 OF CHARLES F. Coffee, a resident of Chadron, Nebraska, marks the passing of another old-time ranchman. Mr. Coffee was closely identified with the development of eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska. He was an important factor in politics and dominant in the banking field.

He was born in Greenfield, Missouri, in 1847. As a youth of fourteen, he served in the Confederate army, principally in his father's regiment. After the war, which ruined the family fortunes, he engaged in various businesses, ranging from selling merchandise to trailing Texas cattle northward, and finally settled in Wyoming, north of Cheyenne, where he engaged in the ranching business. He later developed his ranching interests to include ownership in several large outfits. With the development of these interests, he became engaged also in the banking business, and at the time of his death was president of several banks. He also held directorships in various banks and other institutions.

Mr. Coffee is survived by two sons—John T. Coffee, of Harrison, and Charles F. Coffee, Jr., of Chadron.

FRUIT GROWERS OPPOSE ARGENTINE PACT

IMPORTATION OF LIVE STOCK OR ITS PRODUCTS from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists was opposed in a resolution passed at the sixty-eighth annual convention of the Farmers and Fruit Growers' Association, held at Sacramento, California, December 6. Other resolutions adopted opposed reduction in duty on live stock and meat products; objected to legislation which would restrict selling of live stock at country points; urged passage of the Petten-gill bill; and asked appropriations of \$1,000,000 for the ten-year federal predatory-animal control campaign.

ARGENTINE PACT OPPOSED

PRESERVATION OF THE DOMESTIC MARKET FOR domestic producers and opposition to the Argentine sanitary convention were expressions made in a resolution passed at a regular meeting of the Elko Chamber of Commerce, held at Elko, Nevada, December 19. The resolution passed adopted two resolutions previously passed by the Nevada State Cattle

Association, which, in summary, demanded the preservation of the domestic live-stock market for the domestic producers and urged Secretary of State Hull to follow that policy in any reciprocal trade agreements negotiated, and a continuance of the present complete embargo against importation of live stock or its products from any country where foot-and-mouth disease exists. The chamber's resolution urged Nevada's representatives in Congress to use every effort to prevent ratification of the proposed Argentine pact.

GATES AND POSTS CAUSE MOST BRUISES

ONE FIFTH OF THE CATTLE SHIPPED TO MARKET arrive in a bruised condition, with the most valuable cuts of beef sustaining more than their share of bruises, and with gates, posts, and similar obstructions doing more injury than all other causes combined, according to a survey recently completed by the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board in co-operation with the Institute of American Meat Packers.

Of the 44,474 cattle inspected, it was found that more than 9,200, or nearly 21 per cent, were bruised sufficiently to damage the carcasses, and the majority were injured where the most valuable cuts of beef were to be taken. More than 5,700 of the injuries were rib or loin bruises, and nearly 3,400 rounds were damaged, while the number of injuries to chucks and flanks was about 2,650 each, and that to plates nearly 1,300—making 16,000 bruises on the 9,200 carcasses. Thirty-seven per cent of the bruises were designated as fresh, and 63 per cent as old.

Among the causes of the bruises, striking against gates or posts was by far the most outstanding, accounting for 55 per cent of the injuries. Horns ranked next, being the source of 11 per cent; clubbing, third, causing 8 per cent; riding, fourth, accounting for 7 per cent; whips, fifth, 3 per cent; and nails, sixth, 2 per cent. Various other causes such as being down in the car or truck, or slipping, accounted for the remainder. An estimate of the monetary loss was made by removing, weighing, and charging for the bruised part, and by including the loss in value sustained by the unbruised remainder. On this basis the average loss from bruises figured \$1.90 per animal injured or 38 cents for each head of cattle handled. At this rate the national loss on all beef produced in 1934 would have totaled \$3,800,000—a large part of which could have been prevented.

Much of the enormous loss through striking gates and other obstructions could be averted by less rush and crowding in driving animals, the report suggested, as well as by giving them a good footing, and by removing rough spots, splinters, and nails from gates, posts, corners, and other points with which the animals come in contact.

LEATHER SOLES WITH CALKS SAFEST

TO THE PRODUCER:—In the November PRODUCER I noticed a letter by G. Ed. Engstrom, commenting on how much safer composition soles are than leather for CCC timbermen. As a timberman of some experience, may I state that in all important logging operations that I have had anything to do with, the men have worn leather boots equipped with heavy leather soles in which screw-calks are placed. It is agreed that a person working with an ax, cross-cut saw, and, we will add, a cant hook or peavey, not only endangers the life and limbs of himself, but also those of his fellow-workmen. To get and use proper equipment is to reduce accidents caused by improper footwear. Therefore timber-workers should insist on genuine leather boots having soles heavy enough to retain screw-calks. Ask any "timber dog" or "river hog."

R. A. HUNT.

Collbran, Colorado.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

THE AAA DECISION

A DRASTIC SUPREME COURT DECISION OUTLAWING the processing tax and shattering the Agricultural Adjustment Act was handed down on January 6. As an immediate reaction came the intimation that an appropriation of several hundred million dollars would be asked to pay benefits to farmers, to which the administration has already been committed. Various plans have been suggested to make up for the discarded set-up: domestic allotments, export debentures, appropriations to states on condition that they would establish their own adjustment programs, appropriations for a land-leasing program, and conditional appropriations to individual farmers. A study of the situation and consideration of alternative plans for the upset AAA will be gone into at a conference in Washington of farm leaders.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, in a broadcast over the National Farm and Home Hour, gives the gist of the majority opinion of the court as follows:

"The adjustment act is unconstitutional, the Supreme Court declares, because it violates states' rights as protected in the tenth amendment to the constitution. Agricultural production, the court says, is 'a purely local activity.' But the Agricultural Adjustment Act, the court declares, presumes federal power to control agricultural production in an effort to give farmers fair exchange value for their products. There is no power in the constitution, the Supreme Court declares, giving the federal government the right to regulate agricultural production, 'therefore legislation by Congress for that purpose is forbidden.' The power to control agricultural production, if it exists at all, must under the constitution remain with the states rather than the federal government. The majority opinion of the Supreme Court further observes that regulation of agricultural production under the adjustment act is not in fact voluntary; but even if it were voluntary, it would still be outside the power of the federal government. Again, finally, 'Contracts for the reduction of acreage and the control of production,' declares the Supreme Court, 'are outside the range of that power . . . the Congress cannot invade state jurisdiction to compel individual action; no more can it purchase such action.'"

Concerning the nonconcurring view, Mr. Wallace says:

"The dissenting opinion, subscribed to by three of the nine justices, does not find the adjustment act unconstitutional, and declares that the constitution means what it says when it says 'that the power to tax and spend includes the power to relieve a nation-wide economic maladjustment by conditional gifts of money.'"

NEW CENSUS FIGURES

CENSUS BUREAU RETURNS FROM FORTY-ONE states show that the number of cattle in those states on January 1, 1935, was 26.6 per cent larger than at the beginning of 1930. Cows and heifers two years of age and over increased 31.1 per cent; hogs and sheep decreased 34.9 and 21.6 per cent, respectively. The census reports for the years 1935 and 1930 from the forty-one states show up as follows:

	1935	1930	Gain (+) or Loss (-)
All cattle	47,963,982	38,879,545	+10,684,380
Females*	25,170,544	19,193,211	+5,977,333
Hogs	28,077,228	43,117,182	-15,039,954
Sheep	37,348,026	45,405,630	-8,057,604

*Two years and up.

The states not reporting are Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Texas.

REVISED CROP REPORT

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE NATION'S CROPS SHOWS about average yields on a rather light acreage, according to the December summary by the Crop Reporting Board. Prices received for this season's crops are about 13 per cent below those received for the short crops of last year; but with the heavier production, the crops' aggregate value of \$5,118,-

Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association

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At a Minimum Handling Charge

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444,000 exceeds the value of last year's crops by \$339,000,000, or 7 per cent. On an income basis, 1935 is expected to show about \$3,400,000,000—an increase of nearly 12 per cent over returns for the 1934 crops. Income for live stock and its products is expected to be close to \$4,230,000,000—an increase of 16.6 per cent. Benefit payments received by farmers in 1935 were less than in 1934, but income of farmers for production and benefit payments combined is expected to total \$8,110,000,000—an increase over last year of about 12 per cent.

Harvests and farm values of the most important crops in 1935 and 1934 are given below (three ciphers omitted):

Crop	Production		Price per Unit (Cents)	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Corn (bu.)	2,202,852	1,377,126	57.7	81.6
All wheat (bu.)	603,199	496,929	83.8	84.7
Oats (bu.)	1,195,435	525,889	27.9	47.9
Barley (bu.)	292,249	118,348	38.1	68.3
Rye (bu.)	57,936	16,045	38.4	71.3
Potatoes (bu.)	355,406	385,421	58.6	46.9
Cotton (bales)	10,734	9,636	11.1*	12.36*
All hay (tons)	87,620	57,023	\$ 7.28	\$13.76
Sugar beets (tons)	7,984	7,481	\$ 5.15	\$ 5.16

*Per pound.

FOUR MORE STATES ACCREDITED

FOUR MORE STATES—DELAWARE, MISSISSIPPI, Oklahoma, and Arizona—were, on January 1, 1936, recognized as modified accredited areas by the Department of Agriculture, signifying that they are practically free of bovine tuberculosis. This makes a total of thirty-seven states so classified. (Modified accreditation means reduction to 0.5 per cent of reaction to official tuberculin tests).

THREE RECIPROCAL PACTS SIGNED

RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENTS CALLING FOR tariff adjustments have been negotiated within the past month between the United States and the following countries:

Honduras—Providing for duty reductions on seventeen commodities exported by the United States to Honduras and assurances against increases on a score of others. Concessions by Honduras are reductions in duties on smoked pork products and certain canned meats by one-third to one-half; substantial reductions on butter and various milks. Duties on various fruits and cotton are also reduced. The United States grants reductions and the binding on the free list of a group of products made up principally of various fruit items.

The Netherlands—Aimed at restoration of trade between the two countries, which fell from \$431,000,000 in 1929 to \$155,500,000 in 1934. This pact is similar to other agreements already concluded and is based upon the unconditional most-favored-nation principle.

Switzerland—Tariff reductions principally on watch movements, cheese, and dyes were granted by the United States in exchange for liberalized quota restrictions on a large list of American products including wheat, lard, fruits, rice, lumber, automobile and petroleum products; reduction in tariffs on certain times, and binding at the present rate on other articles.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

ON THE AVERAGE, 1935 WAS A 13 PER CENT BUSIER year than 1934, according to the Federal Reserve Board's index of volume of industrial production. From the low point of 1932 the improvement was nearly 60 per cent—a recovery of approximately half the ground lost since the peak in 1929. Workers had more employment and more pay. Industries enjoyed greater earnings. Values of property, both city and farm, improved. Low rates for money prevailed. Foreign trade showed a fair increase.

Although industrial construction and heavy railway and utility equipment lagged, a long list of industries recorded all-time highs. Others, including the automobile, reported the best business since 1929.

According to the annual report of the Secretary of Commerce, agriculture enjoyed widespread improvement in 1935; the durable goods industries showed some revival; industrial earnings were greater; consumer purchasing power, based on increased employment, was larger; price relationships were on a more equitable basis; and foreign trade increased in value.

FARM INTEREST PAYMENTS UP

ABOUT 400,000 FARMERS WITH FIRST- AND SECOND- mortgage Land Bank Commissioner loans made under the emergency refinancing program of the past two and a half years had virtually 85 per cent of their matured instalments paid up to date on November 30—a better payment record than last year's—the Farm Credit Administration announces.

Interest instalments matured on \$785,000,000 of loans amounted to almost \$40,000,000 to the end of November, of which over \$34,000,000 had been paid, compared with \$6,700,000 matured to November 30, 1934, and \$5,500,000 paid at that time.

Cows on Russia's Collective Farms

During the last two years over 2,500,000 collective farmers in Russia have acquired cows or heifers.

Canadian Bacon Exports Gain

Exports of bacon from Canada in the first nine months of 1935 showed a gain of \$1,000,000 over the 1934 period. One hundred million pounds were exported during the 1935 period, as against about 95,000,000 the previous year.

Stockmen Appreciate Loan Service

IN paying off his loan, a cattle-feeder recently said: "I have never borrowed money on cattle or sheep with more satisfactory results than in this case. Your credit corporation understands the stockman's problems and its service is ace-high with me."

In financing your live-stock operations, ask about our loan service.

NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MARKETING ASSOCIATION

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Chicago, Illinois

No One Ever Promised

■ "One Dose Immunity" in SUCKLING CALVES before BLACKLEGOL was introduced



Blacklegol Per 10¢ Dose

Either Full 5 c.c. or 1 c.c. Concentrate
LESS IN QUANTITIES

CUTTER Laboratories
Established 1897 BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA



TRUE, previous to the introduction of Blacklegol (Blackleg Antigen), "One Dose Immunity" had been advertised; but mention of how young an animal could be safely immunized with one dose was carefully refrained from . . . except in small type. The small type was in the advertising booklet of one firm which used the "One Dose" headline; but when it got down to cold turkey recommended revaccination of animals "less than three months old" when first vaccinated.

NOW, new claims are being made for old products; but a new saddle blanket doesn't make a new horse, nor do the new claims help the old products to suddenly become sufficiently potent to allow one dose immunization of sucklings with safety.

ON the other hand Blacklegol has stood the test of extensive range use and has come through with flying colors . . . all that it was claimed to be and more! We knew from our field and laboratory tests that losses would be few and far between, but frankly we didn't hope for such a record. Over a million calves immunized with Blacklegol with only a half dozen suspected losses from Blackleg; . . . and any experienced cattleman knows how easy it is to miss an occasional calf when vaccinating, and how hard it is to determine the cause of death from examination in the field.

YOU may have stood by and waited, thinking that Blacklegol "wasn't much different." The record shows Blacklegol is different . . . as different as the Ford V-8 is from the Model T. You owe it to your pocketbook to try Blacklegol if you are still vaccinating twice a year, or have had losses following vaccination with some other "One Dose" vaccine.

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN DECEMBER

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., January 2, 1936.

Cattle

DUMPING WARMED-UP STEERS THAT HAD NO legitimate place in beef supply played havoc with cattle trade on the last round in December. Immediately following the auction sale of carlots, the market had a serious lapse; subsequently it recovered in encouraging manner, but this was effected only by reducing supply. On an advance of \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt. the country again spoiled the broth, filling the hopper during Christmas week all over the country. Beef was handicapped in competition with poultry at that period, coolers filled, and a crash was inevitable. A few specialties such as prime heavy steers selling from \$13 to \$14.50 suffered least; low-cost light cattle evaded the brunt of the decline, but the great bulk of receipts, weighing 850 to 1,100 pounds, was hit hard, thousands of cattle that had consumed considerable corn vending in the \$8 to \$10.75 range. On the breaks feeders came to the rescue, taking on warmed-up steers at prices ranging from \$6.50 to \$8; on the bulges killers took everything capable of bleeding. It has been, and probably will continue to be, a treacherous market all winter, prices fluctuating 50 cents to \$1 intermittently. The big runs are invariably bought on the breaks—a condition that will continue as long as the country ships on the bulges, which are as invariably affected on short runs.

The fact that the country laid in a huge grist of stockers last fall has been constantly and persistently advertised. This effort may have been propagandistic, the purpose being to create an impression that replacement cost was high, that low prices impend, and that cattle sold are well disposed of. On the bulges feeders get chesty, but the moment they crowd the market, even slightly, optimism disappears. That 1934 margins will not be repeated does not need assertion, but if the crop is marketed conservatively no debacle is possible.

That the fall purchase was numerically much greater than that of 1934 is not open to dispute, but weight was decidedly less, and a large percentage of the cattle were acquired for restocking purposes to consume roughage during the winter and go on grass next spring, and will not figure in the winter beef supply. However, high replacement cost and a sloppy market, plus apprehension of further depreciation, have jolted feeders. On the Monday following Christmas Chicago received 16,000 cattle, other markets getting similar packages. Chicago's run carried 40 per cent that should have been kept in the feed-lot for another thirty to sixty days to put them in decent beef condition, and had that element not reported to the butcher, the break would not have occurred.

Long-fed steers, especially the New York kosher type, have practically disappeared; finished yearlings are also scarce, the proportion of current supply, exceeding 1,100 pounds in weight and \$11.50 in price, steadily diminishing; but the surplus—850 to 1,050 pounders, warmed-up and in many cases inferior cattle—is burdensome. Steers selling below \$7.50 get feeder and killer competition, provided they show decent quality. This is likely to be a phase of January and February markets, as many regular feeders balked at paying fall prices

and there are still many holes to fill. Demand for low-grade steers, especially the "yellow-hammer" type, never fails, maintaining a reliable outlet for anything costing \$7 down.

Beef handlers are as skeptical of the market future as are feeders. Consumers are responsible for marked sales resistance, and whenever a few "sides" accumulate in the cooler the beef-man hoists a signal of distress, buyers are called in, and cattle lie in the pens. Then when coolers are cleared, a scramble to replace product on the hang-rail ensues and beef-men have a peculiar obsession; prices in their opinion are already headed downward. More discretion would be shown by filling coolers on breaks, a policy that would be effective in maintaining a reasonable degree of stability. An instance of this occurred on the bad market at the middle of December, when one of the major concerns cleaned up the alleys on a veritable bargain sale, competitors who went short finding themselves under the necessity of scrambling to get sufficient beef to take care of the trade, the logical sequence being sharply, but irregularly, higher prices.

Despite all that happened toward the end of the year, the cattle market discloses a healthy bottom; beef-house gluts are ephemeral, and if fresh cattle supply could be shut off for a week the real situation would be disclosed. When monthly slaughter statements appear the figures indicate generous beef production, but tonnage is lacking. A few plain and rough heavy steers are available, but even this type will not be plentiful, as killers absorbed most of the aged western cattle last summer, paying more for them than feeders would venture. A crop of heavy steers is produced only by two methods: putting weight into the feed-lot at the inception of the operation, or carrying them into long feeding periods. The first was not done last fall, and few feeders are in a mood to run into long feeds.

Corn-crop developments at the maturing stage were disconcerting, as in many localities grain was so soft that it could not be safely cribbed; so high in humidity content that it was not eligible to government loans. Feeders have acquired much of this grain at 40 to 45 cents a bushel; others fed up their crop early, and in preference to buying grain loaded cattle out. Poor corn has necessitated buying nitrogenous concentrates, calling for further outlay, and between two horns of a dilemma the cattle went.

This condition may continue through January and February; if so, the residue of the winter crop will be found in stronger hands, as winter replacement will be light. All the handwriting on the wall points to a flighty, undependable trade, killers taking advantage of every opportunity to save money, feeders jockeying with the market by holding back on breaks. The stage is now all set for a series of boosts and bulges.

Elsewhere than in the steer-alley conditions are similarly erratic. Beef or fed cows are not plentiful, the \$6 to \$7.50 kinds showing a healthy undertone, but Bang's-disease rejects are flighty, \$4 to \$5 taking the bulk, unless they are on the



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canner and cutter order, when it is a \$3.50 to \$4.50 market. Heifer trade is as unsatisfactory as the steer phase, trash getting action, middle and even choice heifers going through a series of bumps. Feeders loaded up with heifers last fall, and in an effort to unload early have depressed prices themselves, \$7 to \$8.50 doing most of the business, a few finished heifers selling at \$9.25 to \$10.50. Crowding the heifer market to compete with poultry was bad business.

The Canadian pact did not sit well with the great majority of feeders, who anticipate a run of Alberta beef early in 1936, as a scramble to get into the two-cent-duty quota is inevitable. Nor has the possibility of an invasion of Argentine chilled beef exerted a reassuring influence. All cattle are not figuring minus profit, some of the "good buys" last fall actually making good money; but a large percentage of the \$8 to \$9 short-feds are on dangerous ground. Fat cattle should be in strong strategic position, owing to scarcity of small meats and deficient beef tonnage; but the operator, under an impression that he bought high, is walking the floor nights pending the finality of the operation. Those riding the storm are likely to run into fairer weather.

Hogs

Although spring- and fall-farrowed hogs are in competition at the market, slaughter is running about 40 per cent below the previous corresponding period, keeping consumers on short rations. Only by curtailing volume have killers been able to restrain a rising tendency of prices, that arm of the trade realizing that competition for numbers would work to their disadvantage, especially in the face of consumer hostility to food taxes. By putting a larger percentage of the carcass into fresh-meat channels, current scarcity has been relieved at the expense of accumulation, but at current cost there is scant incentive to put either meats or lard away in storage, the present purpose being to get a turnover. An average cost of \$9.50 per cwt. at Chicago means \$12 when the tax is included, and that means high-cost meat, so high in fact that a heavy volume could not be absorbed. This aversion to accumulate product is indicated by probably the widest spread in trade history between featherweight fresh-meat hogs and heavy butchers weighing 300 pounds up, the extreme of this range exceeding \$1 per cwt. Eastern shippers have made a lively market for young hogs weighing 200 pounds down, paying \$9.90 to \$10.20 at the high time in December, while heavy butchers dropped to a \$9 basis. Growers have taken this spread as their cue to take a short route to the market, cashing June- and July-farrowed pigs and cutting into the winter and spring supply of mature hogs. That the winter crop has been overestimated is probable, as prices have been attractive for several months; the country has needed money, and on the upturn young hogs were jettisoned. An increase in fall farrowing has scant significance, as government figures are based on pigs arriving subsequent to June 1, and the comparison is

with the smallest fall farrowing in 1934 on record. All information available indicates that the country is short of hogs and will continue to be until the spring crop is ready. This crop will make its debut in January and will go to market early to "beat the break," which is considered inevitable unless the Supreme Court knocks out the processing tax. Many gilts have been bred to deliver spring litters. The new AAA program is designed to stimulate production with the obvious purpose of placating irate consumers, and eventually the production tide will turn. Meanwhile, however, stocks of meats and lard are low, and, to satisfy fresh-meat demand in response to attractive prices, hogs will be marketed early in their careers. A few packing sows are finding an \$8.50 to \$8.75 market, but they will cut little figure in meat supply for several months, after which yearlings that have weaned pigs will troop to the packing-house. Killers are resorting to every possible expedient to hold hog prices down; distributors are diverting consumption to other foods, using the tax argument effectively. The resultant advantage to beef, veal, lamb, and poultry is evident.

Lambs

A liberal supply of lambs has been readily absorbed by the dressed market at substantially higher prices than during the summer and fall period, but the distribution arm of the trade has been unusually erratic, which kicked back into the live market. On December 16 packers refused to pay more than \$10.75 for the best lambs at Chicago; on the next session one of that ilk parted with \$11.50. However, a large share of the crop sold in the \$11 to \$11.75 range, and on one occasion, late in the month, \$12 was paid for a picked band. As fall gains were made at low cost, feeders have made fairly satisfactory profits, facilitating an early clean-up of natives and fed westerns laid in early east of the Missouri River. Colorado began topping out late in December, indicating that an expanding movement may be expected from that quarter in January. By February visible supply east of the Missouri River will be low, clearing the decks for western feeders. Whenever eastern orders materialize, an active, and usually higher, market results; but demand from that quarter is intermittent and undependable, which accounts for sharp breaks at intervals. Eastern orders will be spread all over the market map as far west as Denver, and as few lambs are on feed east of Chicago, with the exception of Indiana, Atlantic seaboard butchers will be constantly in the market. Whenever they happen to be idle for one or two days, price recessions may be expected. Declines and reactions of 50 cents per cwt. within a few days have been the rule and will continue to be, as the prompt response to every bulge is a few days of liberal supply, feeders showing a disposition to count their money at the earliest opportunity. Several strong bullish cards are held by feeders, not the best of which is a buoyant, if not advancing, wool market, and each month's feed increases pelt values. Iowa, full of refugee western lambs a year ago, is carrying few, so that a 10 to 15 per cent increase in Colorado is not to be taken seriously, as, even at that, the total number in preparation is below the previous five-year average. Although erratic, the dressed market is healthy, freezers contain only a small package of ovine product, and distress sales of fresh dressed meat are unlikely. Lamb trade is deriving considerable benefit from pork scarcity, public eating-houses persistently discriminating against that meat in resentment of the processing tax. However, a carcass trade at 17 to 20 cents a pound is approximately at the price-roof, and whenever a few cents per pound is tacked on by retailers, consumers balk. Killers are getting around \$3 for lamb pelts, which relieves the burden on meat, and all by-product is earning good money. A cloud on the horizon is the possible import of considerable quantities of

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Patagonian product, should the Senate ratify the Hull convention with Argentina at an early date, in which event the Atlantic-seaboard market will be plentifully supplied with South American product. Texas yearlings, after a feed-lot course, are selling at \$9.50 to \$9.75 and actually making feeders more money than lambs, as the product goes to the public in that guise. Fat ewes at \$4.50 to \$5.25 sell dressed in the carcass at \$8 to \$10, but maintenance of that price-status means scarcity. Shearers would take an inestimable number of short-fed lambs, having had access to few at \$9.75 to \$10.25; but nearly everything dislodged from feed-lots carries enough flesh to entitle it to a place on the meat-rail, consequently Michigan feeders are finding hard picking. The last of Montana's crop of feeding lambs went to a Sycamore, Illinois, man at \$9.50 in December, and an indefinite number would be absorbed at the same price. The visible winter supply is in feeders' hands, as replacement will be impossible, which puts the entire package in strong hands.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, SHIPMENTS, and federally inspected slaughter of live stock at sixty-two markets for the month of November, 1935, as compared with November, 1934, and for eleven months ending November, 1935 and 1934:

RECEIPTS

	November		Eleven Months Ending November	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Cattle*	1,459,027	1,598,081†	13,713,581†	18,400,760†
Calves.....	578,063	564,420†	6,080,708†	7,572,404†
Hogs.....	1,671,419	3,217,586	17,526,435	30,580,054
Sheep.....	1,732,200	1,833,171†	23,979,151	24,595,828†

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	November		Eleven Months Ending November	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Cattle*	699,484	648,476	5,790,767	8,014,350
Calves.....	211,111	186,133	1,999,468	2,213,928
Hogs.....	525,828	881,321	5,421,361	8,824,694
Sheep.....	821,694	818,659	12,006,581	12,070,338

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	November		Eleven Months Ending November	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Cattle*	375,301	258,704	2,685,003	3,040,007
Calves.....	69,961	58,625	465,512	460,164
Hogs.....	24,387	52,290	298,122	516,020
Sheep.....	334,511	282,561	2,882,077	3,227,564

SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

	November		Eleven Months Ending November	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Cattle*	955,694	897,092	8,783,092	9,149,966
Calves.....	480,091	480,468	5,197,317	5,636,335
Hogs.....	2,421,898	4,311,939	23,182,772	39,679,499
Sheep.....	1,406,985	1,328,869	16,275,534	14,761,569

*Exclusive of calves

†Includes stockers and feeders.

‡Includes animals purchased for Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES OF WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on January 3, 1936, compared with December 2, 1935, and January 2, 1935, were (per cwt.):

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

		Jan. 3, 1936	Dec. 2, 1935	Jan. 2, 1935
STEER (700 lbs. up):				
Choice		\$16.00-18.00	\$16.50-18.50	\$14.00-15.00
Good		13.50-16.50	14.00-16.50	11.50-14.00
STEER (500 to 700 lbs.):				
Choice		15.50-17.50	16.50-18.00	13.50-14.50
Good		12.50-15.50	13.50-16.50	11.50-13.50
YEARLING STEER:				
Choice		15.50-17.00	16.50-18.00	13.50-14.50
Good		12.50-15.50	13.50-16.50	11.50-13.50
COW:				
Good		9.50-10.00	10.00-11.00	8.00-9.50
VEAL:				
Choice		16.00-17.00	15.50-16.50	12.00-13.00
Good		15.00-16.00	14.50-15.50	11.00-12.00

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMB (45 lbs. down):				
Choice		\$18.50-19.00	\$18.00-18.50	\$15.50-17.00
Good		17.50-18.50	17.00-18.00	14.50-16.00
MUTTON:				
Good		9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	8.00-9.00

FRESH PORK CUTS

LOINS:				
8-12 lb. average.....		\$21.00-22.50	\$20.50-22.50	\$19.00-20.00

MARKET GOSSIP

BY J. E. P.

ALL LIVE-STOCK VALUES ARE TRENDING LOWER; peak prices are a matter of history. At the end of the year, strenuous bear-raiding was resorted to, the announced intention in processing circles being to "put 'em down." President Woods, of the American Institute of Meat Packers, announced progress at that juncture in the consumer-conciliation program, and that retail meat prices had declined from 5 to 17 per cent since the September high spot was uncovered, giving the Department of Agriculture as his authority. The Bureau of Agriculture Economics announced reductions in cost of 13 of 20 retail meat cuts—4 to 10 per cent in the case

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of beef, no change to 7 per cent in pork, but an increase of 5 per cent in lamb. All of which will be good news to consumers, when and if they realize the fact. Producers were congratulated by Mr. Woods on a 16 to 90 per cent higher cattle market than at the inception of 1935; in calves, 50 per cent; and lambs, 25 to 30 per cent. As prices were actually low and far under production cost early in 1935, juggling with percentages is an easy trick.

All Species Drop Below 1935 Highs

However, dissatisfaction is still audible, both in producing and consuming circles. Sharp declines from the high points of 1935 have been registered in each of the species. Determination to put prices still lower is somewhat disconcerting in the case of feeders, whose investment cost, with respect both to cattle and sheep, had advanced substantially if not dangerously, although feed bills are somewhat lower. At the inception of 1935, \$10.85 was the Chicago top on cattle, compared with \$14 currently. At that time \$6.50 to \$9.50 per cwt. bought the bulk of steers, against \$8.25 to \$11.25 this year. Top hogs were \$7.50, against \$9.75; average cost, about \$6.70, compared with \$9.50. Lambs show a marked advance from \$8.50 to \$8.75 to \$11 to \$11.25. Creating an impression that all feeders have participated in this boom has been responsible for propagandistic effort, much of it far-fetched, as many were unable to participate owing to drought and other factors. As production revives—and that process is already under way—prices will naturally seek still lower levels, although time will be essential to the culmination of that campaign.

Canada Will Fill Her Quota

Canada is ready to take advantage of the two-cent customs tariff on cattle over 700 pounds the moment Parliament ratifies the reciprocity treaty. Inquiry has been pouring into Chicago commission houses since the terms of the pact were announced, and trade scouts have promptly responded. Naturally this inquiry emanates from Alberta and Saskatchewan, where "bundle" feeding is popular. Ontario cattle are barn-fed during the winter—in much the same manner as the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, section operates—and will go to eastern markets when they move late in the winter or early spring. That Ontario farm-feeders have substantially increased their potential output is an open secret, but numbers are speculative. However, Ontario absorbed three times its western stock-cattle purchase of 1934, according to the eastward movement through the St. Boniface, Manitoba, gateway, and the western province grows a considerable number of beef cattle. Western Canadian feeders are anxious to get to market before the quota is filled, and that it will be used up is considered a certainty. Exports to this market will depend on our prices, although the fact must not be ignored that the Dominion has no other place to go. In any event, the 155,000-head quota will be filled. When that is accomplished the three-cent rate goes into effect.

Quota May Come in in Few Weeks' Time

Interrogation of cattle feeders on the Chicago market discloses general antagonism to the treaty, on the theory that domestic beef production, current and prospective, is ample

and that a heavy, if temporary, influx of Canadian beef will have a price-depressing influence. The opinion is also well grounded that agriculture has been sacrificed for industry. Free liquidation of warmed-up steers by Corn Belt feeders during December was due in no small measure to apprehension of Canadian imports and early ratification of the Argentine "convention" by the United States Senate. Had Canadian imports been put on a monthly quota, danger of temporary demoralization would have been reduced; as it is, the entire quota may be filled in a few weeks, in much the same manner as cattle from the Lancaster section of Pennsylvania are dumped when they emerge from barn-basement seclusion early in the spring, whereupon eastern shipping demand at western markets is promptly curtailed to the detriment of values. Eastern Canadian cattle have a distinct advantage over those fed west of the Mississippi River in the essential factors of shrinks, transportation cost, and proximity to markets.

Much Meat Climbing Tariff Wall

Western cattlemen escaped punishment in framing the treaty, as they retain the old duty on stock cattle, but an impression is deep-seated that this pact is merely insertion of the thin edge of a wedge. According to Marvin Jones, chairman of the House Agricultural Committee, "no farm program would be necessary were it not for tariff barriers to trade." In erecting such barriers Congress gave agriculture all the protection it asked, and without present tariffs this market would have been a dumping ground for antipodean meats. As it is, South America and Europe are sending an enormous poundage of cooked and smoked meats, not to speak of edible fats, into the United States. Each week registers arrival at the Atlantic seaboard of incredible quantities of canned beef from Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay; Poland is sending about 200,000 pounds of hog product weekly, contributions on a lesser scale being made by Canada, England, France, Holland, Irish Free State, Norway, New Zealand; even Italy and Spain send small quantities. A suggestive fact is that Brazil is contributing to our pork supply and is the major source of canned beef. As all this product is heavily imposed by the tariff, removing this "barrier" would place domestic live-stock trade on a foreign-price basis.

Secretary Wallace Makes Retreat

Secretary Wallace himself is questioning the merit of the price-parity program as applied to hogs, recognizing that resultant contraction of consumer demand for pork is adverse to producers. In addressing members of the Farm Economics Association, he said: "With foreign demand and industrial conditions as they were in 1935, it appeared that the parity price for hogs could be maintained only by furnishing the domestic consumer about 60 per cent as much pork as he has been in the habit of eating. The question, therefore, arises as to whether it is in the interest of the Corn Belt farmer to maintain a parity price for hogs if this parity price results in such contraction of consumer demand that less than two-thirds of the normal number of hogs is consumed."

The secretary is lending an ear to popular protest against price manipulation by production control. Current pork shortage is due largely to drought, and the AAA program would have had much the same result as far as consumer psychology is concerned. But for drought, the Chicago average price of hogs would probably be around \$8 per cwt. minus the tax, as commercial breeding operations were at the contraction stage of the cycle when the plan was launched. Mr. Wallace said a mouthful in this sentence of his New York speech: "I am sure that neither the federal government nor the farmers will want to stand very long for a parity-price program for a commodity if it would mean the production of a subnormal quantity of

Haley-Smith Company

Breeders of Registered Herefords

Bulls for Sale at All Times

STERLING, COLORADO

food for the American public and a reduced net income for the farmer." This sounds like a retreat from Moscow.

Early Decision on AAA Tax Desirable

Signing corn-hog contracts under the revised plan is in progress; the plebiscite last November had little significance, as it was put over by strenuous efforts which have been given full publicity meanwhile. Realizing consumer antagonism to restricted pork production, the agricultural administration has gone into reverse, paying for growing instead of not growing hogs. As government checks are highly prized, this policy reversal will be a signature-getter, although consciousness that growers have paid all or part of the processing tax when hogs are sold is increasing. Until the Supreme Court hands down a decision on the tax dispute all interests will be up in the air, so that early determination is desirable. That the tax was detrimental to the operations of an extensive coterie of hog butchers will not be disputed, as many were practically put out of business, having no other trade-lines to pay overhead expense. Contrariwise, packers operating in several fields of meat manufacture, especially preserved meats, were able not only to carry on but make gratifying statements to stockholders on 1935 business, for which inventory appreciation beef and ovine trade was responsible.

Comparative Slaughter Figures

Slaughter returns for 1935, complete to November, indicate heavy beef production. Under federal inspection, which is 70 per cent of the total, 8,783,092 cattle of all kinds were processed during the eleven-month period, compared with 9,149,966 during the corresponding period of 1934; but, to accomplish this, the whole country was fine-tooth combed and the South was ransacked for inferior steers which constituted a welcome accession to beef supply. Slaughter also carried a large percentage of tuberculosis and Bang's disease reactor cows. Eleven-month hog slaughter figured only 23,182,772, compared with 39,679,499 in 1934, this being the spot where meat production fell down. Sheep and lamb slaughter was well maintained, the eleven-month count being 16,275,534 head, compared with 14,761,569 in 1934. It is doubtful if cattle slaughter in 1936 will equal that of 1935; in any event, tonnage will be cut. The prospect for any substantial increase in pork supply is remote, and that fewer sheep and lambs will be processed is almost certain.

Sales Resistance to Pork Persists

Increased hog marketing during the last week of December was due to cutting loose stock that had been held in expectation of remission of the processing tax. How this idea got in circulation is a mystery, as there never was a possibility of a Supreme Court decision before sometime in January. Those who overstayed a good market lost 50 to 75 cents per cwt., as on the last round of the year the market went to pieces, \$9.50 stopping the best hogs, and heavy butchers selling for as low as \$8.50. Sales resistance in the case of pork persists, retailers "knocking" it effectively. Recent manifestation of this attitude is a practice of inserting a couple of cardboard imitations in packages of chops. When the mystified buyer asks the why and wherefore, the salesman's response is: "They would have been real chops but for the tax." A more insidious method of arousing tax consciousness could not be conceived.

Low-Priced Cattle Get Most Bids

"Something cheap" is still the cry of cattle-buyers, distributors, and customers. Bovine trash always has a dependable market of its own. Common light steers costing \$5.50 to \$7.50 and warmed-up heifers below \$7 do not lack bids, while

steers fed six months on corn frequently go over the sessions without reasonable, if any, bids. Bologna bulls and low-grade cows also have a dependable market. The reason for this can be traced directly to the retailer's block, and is merely a protest against current prices.

Price Readjustment Period Near

A demoralized year-end set of markets is not conducive to holding live stock on feed. Killers act as though they have a case of "jitters," pulling buyers out of the market without apparent justification. One of the major concerns pulled a stunt on both December breaks by cleaning up everything in sight at the bottom. That it was sound policy was demonstrated by sharp advances the moment fresh cattle supply was cut in two. Feeders are bewildered, uncertain whether to cut loose or go along, and a drop of 75 cents to \$1 per cwt. in cattle, 50 to 65 cents in hogs, and 75 cents in lambs at the year-end did not improve their psychology. Most of them figure that cattle and lamb replacement was high and that when \$1 per cwt. can be shaved off with celerity, the next dollar below is in danger. The indisputable fact is that the whole set of live-stock markets is at the inception of a readjustment period, endeavoring to find a stable basis.

Comparative Prices

Average price of all cattle at Chicago in 1935 was \$7.89 per cwt.; per head, \$72.35. In 1934 the average price was \$5.28; per head, \$49.17. The low year, 1933, developed an average price of \$4.75 per cwt.; per head, \$46.17. Average price of veal calves per cwt. in 1935 was \$7.90; per head, \$13.35; in 1934, \$5.57 per cwt. and \$8.02 per head. The 1933 average per cwt. was \$5.45; per head, \$7.96. Hogs averaged \$9.14 per cwt. and \$21.75 per head in 1935; \$4.60 per cwt. and \$10.30 per head in 1934; \$3.91 per cwt. and \$9.25 per head in 1933. Sheep and lambs averaged \$8.36 per cwt. in 1935, \$7.11 per head; \$7.65 per cwt. in 1934, \$6.20 per head; \$6.28 per cwt. in 1933, and \$5.15 per head. These generalizations indicate appreciation due to drought in the case of cattle; drought and the AAA program in the case of hogs; heavy sheep slaughter kept ovine stock from rising to maximum.

The average cost of western slaughter cattle in 1935 was \$7.65 per cwt., \$86.98 per head, compared with \$49.26 per head in 1934. Seventy-five per cent of the western cattle reaching Chicago went to feeders, averaging 745 pounds and costing \$7.42 per cwt., or \$55.28 per head, compared with \$28.85 per head in 1934.

HIDES SHOW UNDERLYING STRENGTH

BY J. E. P.

A FREE MOVEMENT OF HIDES DISCLOSES UNDERLYING strength. Intermittent activity in big lots—frequently 100,000 pieces—indicates reluctance on the part of tanners to pay more money, on the ground that they are unable

Herd Bulls	Range Bulls
PURE-BRED HEREFORD	
CATTLE	
Perry Park Ranch	
Larkspur, Colorado	R. P. Lamont, Jr., Owner

to mark leather prices up. However, packers have the situation well in hand, their policy being to hold the property until tanners come across. By these tactics they are able to hold last-sale prices and occasionally put on a fraction. Around the holiday volume was well maintained, packers were well sold up, and inventories were light. Heavy steer hides are eligible to 15 cents; light Texas, 11½ cents; and cows, 11 to 11½ cents, these prices indicating the range. Country hides are scarce, as current slaughter is largely at inspected plants where hides are peeled intelligently. Shoe trade is healthy, consumers showing more disposition to take higher-cost foot-gear, although middle-price shoes are still the best sellers. Stocks of leather have diminished, putting that arm of the trade in robust condition.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS OF frozen and cured meats, lard, poultry, creamery butter, and eggs on December 1, 1935, as compared with December 1, 1934, and average holdings on that date for the past five years (in pounds except as otherwise noted):

Commodity	Dec. 1, 1935	Dec. 1, 1934	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	71,591,000	105,092,000	52,780,000
Lamb and mutton.....	19,449,000	22,861,000	17,528,000
Cured beef*.....	2,665,000	4,687,000	3,418,000
Frozen pork.....	36,123,000	158,675,000	89,776,000
Dry salt pork*.....	30,833,000	52,906,000	59,507,000
Pickled pork*.....	185,971,000	360,332,000	313,423,000
Miscellaneous.....	63,271,000	112,831,000	65,694,000
Total meats.....	409,903,000	817,384,000	602,126,000
Lard.....	37,530,000	103,827,000	63,215,000
Frozen poultry.....	85,996,000	105,565,000	91,213,000
Creamery butter.....	71,925,000	81,034,000	77,332,000
Eggs (case equiv.).....	4,996,000	4,554,000	4,984,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

1935 WOOL CONSUMPTION HIGHEST

BY J. E. P.

WOOL IS IN THE STRONGEST POSITION IN MANY a long day. Prices are constantly against the buyer. Mills that are operating are buying freely, and there is not even a remote prospect of lower prices, the stage having been set for early field-buying of the new clip. The year-end position of the commodity is phenomenally strong. Not in thirty-five years have eastern wool-lofts been so bare, with possibly one exception. Foreign markets are working higher, putting a prop under domestic prices. New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming wools sold freely at Boston late in December at 80

to 83 cents, clean, buyers doing little quibbling. Good twelve-month Texas wools changed hands at 82 cents, clean.

Competition is keen at foreign markets, especially the River Plate, where a large percentage of the clip is burry. The pre-holiday season closed against buyers both in Australia and New Zealand. European markets are strong on heavy buying of Merino tops.

The manufacturing position is sound, reflecting an active clothing trade, and creating possibility that the entire stock of domestic wool will be cleared before new clips arrive. A fair quantity of foreign wool is reaching eastern ports, Boston having received a larger poundage during the last half of 1935 than during the entire fiscal year ending with June.

In eastern wool centers complaint is made of a money excess in banks and a wool deficiency in warehouses, due to diminished production in 1935, estimated at 7 to 8 per cent, coupled with an increase of 100 per cent in consumption compared with 1935. Dealers have not had enough wool to supply their trade. At the moment nobody is making concessions, and when a buyer needs wool he usually pays more money to get it. Confidence exists that 1936 will be a duplication of 1935 with respect to consumption, and that the price-trend will be upward. Around the year-end, dealers were balancing books, incidentally worrying about this year's supply. Inventory-taking, usually an inevitable task, was called off.

The year-end estimate of available wool not in dealers' hands was 40,000,000 to 44,000,000 pounds, which could disappear in a short time. Doubtless a deficiency impends, and it will be met only by increasing imports. Should American buyers operate to any extent in foreign markets, prices will be raised there, insuring higher domestic quotations.

Nineteen hundred and thirty-five was a phenomenal year in wool trade, estimated consumption breaking all previous records. No runaway markets developed, prices advancing legitimately and conservatively.

COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES OF THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on January 1, 1936, compared with December 2, 1935, and January 3, 1935 (per 100 pounds):

SLAUGHTER STEERS:		Jan. 1, 1936	Dec. 2, 1935	Jan. 3, 1935
Choice (1,000 to 1,500 lbs.)	.....	\$12.00-13.50	\$12.75-14.00	\$10.50-11.15
Good	.....	9.25-12.50	9.50-13.00	8.25-10.50
Choice (900 to 1,100 lbs.)	.....	11.50-13.25	12.50-13.75	10.00-11.00
Good	.....	9.00-12.00	9.25-12.75	8.25-10.50
Medium (900 lbs. up)	.....	7.00- 9.00	7.25- 9.50	6.00- 8.50
FED YEARLING STEERS:				
Good to choice	.....	8.75-12.00	9.00-12.75	7.75-10.50
HEIFERS:				
Good to choice	.....	8.00-10.50	8.50-12.00	6.50- 9.00
COWS:				
Good	.....	5.75- 7.00	5.25- 6.50	4.25- 5.50
CALVES:				
Good to Choice	.....	7.00-10.00	7.00-11.00	4.50- 8.25
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:				
Good to Choice	.....	7.25- 8.50	7.25- 8.25	4.00- 5.50
Common to Medium	.....	5.25- 7.50	5.25- 7.25	2.75- 4.25
HOGS:				
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	....	9.00- 9.60	9.75- 9.90	7.25- 7.65
LAMBS:				
Good to Choice (90 lbs. down)	.....	10.50-11.25	10.50-11.50	8.50- 9.35
EWES:				
Good to Choice	.....	4.25- 5.50	4.40- 5.50	3.00- 4.00

CHANGE IN MEAT-EATING HABITS

ON THE AUTHORITY OF WILLIAM WHITFIELD Woods, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago, we learn that:

"Habits of meat-eating changed in 1935, as a result of the reduction in pork supplies. It is estimated that each individual ate about 47 pounds of pork in 1935, as compared



Colorado Calves at \$38.52 Per Head

Chas. R. Swift, manager, Colorado Valley Land Company, Center, Colorado, reports the sale of 612 Hereford stock calves, averaging 423 pounds, ranch weights, at \$9 per cwt. These calves went to D. S. Anderson, Lexington, Nebraska, an extensive feeder, who proposes to carry them on feed twelve months. These calves are said to be "beauties" and show extreme quality. (Taken from January 1 Hereford Journal.)

THESE CALVES ARE ALL SIBED BY WHR BULLS!
Buy WHR Bulls and command similar premiums
for YOUR calves

WYOMING HEREFORD RANCH, Cheyenne

with almost 68 pounds in the preceding year. This does not indicate that consumers did not want as much ham, bacon, and other pork in 1935 as they ate the year before; rather, it reflects the change in the numbers of live stock marketed.

"The amount of beef eaten in 1935 undoubtedly was greater than the amount of pork consumed—a reversal of the usual relationship. For the past fifteen years consumers have eaten more pork than beef. Again the result of the lowered swine numbers and the relatively well-maintained production of beef is noted.

COMMISSION MEN APPEAL RATE ORDER

AN APPEAL TO TEST WHETHER COMMISSION rates ordered by the Secretary of Agriculture on September 26, 1934, were valid has been taken to the United States Supreme Court from the district court in Colorado by commission men operating on the Denver market.

On December 4 the district court ordered that rates established by the Secretary of Agriculture be made effective, which ruling also dissolved an injunction restraining enforcement of the secretary's order and called for the distribution of impounded funds representing the difference between the rates ordered by the secretary and the commission-house rates.

The petition of the commission men asks that the Secretary of Agriculture be enjoined from enforcing his schedule of rates, and states that on October 22, 1935, new rates were established and filed with the Secretary of Agriculture, but the secretary did not, within the ten-day period provided by law, suspend operation of the new schedules or give notice of hearings. For that reason, the petition states, the new schedule of rates is lawful and proper.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU MEETS

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FARM Bureau Federation, held in Chicago in December, was one of the most successful ever held by that organization.

A long list of resolutions were passed, among which were the following:

Favoring: Launching by Congress of studies to be used as basis for preventing recurrence of depressions, believing that inflexibility of fixed currency is cause of depressions; developing adequate system of rural credit legislation; extension of farm-to-market roads; improvement and extension of waterways; balancing budget; rural electrification; child labor bill amendment; conscription of industry and finance in case of war; reciprocal trade treaties;

Urging: Amendment to Packers and Stock-yards Act, making available records of processors; regulation of commodity exchanges; tax on oleomargarine, both domestic and foreign;

Indorsing Agricultural Adjustment Act;

Opposing Argentine sanitary convention.

ONE-MAN "CALF PLAN"

SOME EIGHT MONTHS AGO SAM SELMAN, OF GLEN-dive, Montana, rounded up a likely looking calf and put an "A" brand on it. "He is yours," he wrote in a letter to the American National Live Stock Association. The other day the association received a check from Mr. Selman for \$25—proceeds from the sale of the calf. "Keep the good work going," he writes. "We have another calf in the making for the association."

The "give-a-calf" method of making payments to the American National was started several years ago by the Yavapai (County) Cattle Growers, in Arizona. Since then

many associations, and some individuals, have made payments in similar fashion, and receipts from that source now represent a substantial portion of the association's budget.

FEEDSTUFFS

THE PRICE OF COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL ON January 7 was quoted at \$23.50 a ton, f.o.b. Texas points. Hay prices at Omaha on January 3 were: alfalfa—choice leafy, \$12.50; No. 1, \$11.50 to \$12; standard leafy, \$11 to \$11.50; standard, \$10.50 to \$11; No. 2, \$9.50 to \$10; No. 3, \$7.50; sample, \$4 to \$5; upland prairie—No. 1, \$10; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 3, \$7 to \$8.50; sample, \$4.50 to \$5; midland prairie—No. 1, 8.50 to \$9; No. 2, \$7 to \$8; sample, \$4 to \$5; mixed hay—No. 1, \$9.50 to \$10; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9; No. 3, \$7 to \$8.

Canadian Farm Plan Faces Test

Canadian reform legislation, including the National Products Marketing Act, faces a supreme court test, beginning January 15, similar to that which upset the Agricultural Adjustment Act in the United States.

South American Meat for Germany

An agreement under which Germany will receive her first shipment of frozen meat from South America has recently been effected. Large consignments are expected to reach Germany in January.

THE PROGRESSIVE CATTLEMEN

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Quanah Cake Cubes

43% Protein Cottonseed Cake

They are SOFT. Toothless cows and weanling calves eat them as easily as big steers.

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Wire or Write SALES OFFICE at
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FOREIGN

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, November 18, 1935.

AS A RESULT OF A MEETING OF MEAT-PRODUCERS and packers, held at the federal capital last month, it has been decided to create an all-Australian Meat Control Board. The idea has been under consideration for some years, but, owing to the active opposition of some of the states and the more or less passive resistance of certain exporter interests, no definite action was taken until the other day. However, the proposed formation of an Empire Meat Council in Great Britain, comprising representatives of the United Kingdom and Dominions, and also of a standing meat conference of all countries shipping meat to the United Kingdom (the principle duty of the latter will be to regulate supplies), has now brought matters to a head. It was recognized that Australia, if it is to have an adequate say in the British market—and as about 95 per cent of our export meat goes to Great Britain such a voice is necessary—must possess an organization with statutory powers to control and direct the industry.

The chief difficulty at the Canberra conference was to decide on the composition of the board, and it was only after a long debate that an agreement, much in the nature of a compromise, was reached. This makes provision for nine producer representatives, three representatives of the proprietary meat-packing companies, one of the co-operative meat companies, four representatives of publicly owned (municipal or state) *abattoir* and freezing works, and one commonwealth government representative.

As a board of eighteen members, drawn from all parts of Australia, would be unwieldy, it was agreed that it should be given power to appoint an executive of five from among its members. The chairman of the board, who will also be elected from among the members, will be chairman of the executive.

The main duties of the board, or its executive, will be to regulate shipments, license exporters, and conduct propaganda for the sale of Australian meat overseas. Its funds will be raised by means of a levy on meat exported, the maximum rate being fixed at 1 cent per quarter of beef and 2 cents per carcass of mutton, pork, and veal. The estimated income, supposing the maximum levy is collected, would be about, say \$135,000 per annum. The fact that the New Zealand Meat Producers' Board spends nearly \$125,000 a year in advertising

New Zealand meat in Great Britain, and has succeeded in establishing a market for its frozen lamb at about 2 cents a pound above the price of any other imported line, is sufficient proof that such propaganda pays.

When the question of packer representation on the board was under discussion at the conference, the Minister for Commerce, who presided, was very definite that the federal government would not accept the nomination of representatives of companies which are in any way interested in supplying meat to Great Britain from non-empire countries. As a matter of fact, the bill to constitute the board, which is now before the House of Representatives, provides that the minister shall himself nominate the representatives after consultation with the State Meat Exporters' Associations. This means that the Australian interests, controlled by Swift, Wilson, Armour, and Vestey, will have no chance of obtaining a footing on the board.

Obviously, the success or otherwise of the board largely depends on the chairman and the personnel of the executive. Who and what that will be nobody can say as yet, but it is fairly certain that the chairman and the majority of the executive will be producers. If men with business ability are chosen, well and good; but should the choice fall on narrow-visioned farmers, the export trade may suffer rather than benefit from control. Whatever may be the potential weakness of the board, it is satisfying to know that it will be impossible for it to become government controlled.

It may also be taken for granted that the board will protect the financially weak co-operatives and small operators from the alleged swamping tactics of the large oversea-controlled packers. The small man will be assured of at least a share in the British market.

Though it is rather early to expect regular summer monsoonal rains, the far north has already received scattered storms. These give promise of a fair season climatically for cattle-breeders in those parts. Fats in Queensland are still scarce, so much so that up to \$9.12 per hundred, chilled weight, has been paid for best sters in the Brisbane yards during the past couple of months. The average will have been well over \$7.20 per hundred, and represents a high level not touched in the north for some years.

The foregoing prices are considerably above export parity for frozen beef, consequently none of the packers has operated for the oversea trade during the past two months, except in respect to small lines of chillers to fill freight and other contract commitments. It is expected that prices will be easier next month, when exports will be resumed.

FEDERAL OLEO TAX DEMANDED

NEW FEDERAL TAXES ON DOMESTIC OLEOMARGARINE and on imported fats and oils will be sought by the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Association in the present Congress. Three measures are wanted by the dairy interests: (1) A new federal tax of five cents a pound on all oleomargarine; (2) federal law to prevent evasion of state taxes by olemargarine moving in interstate commerce; and (3) import, excise, or processing tax on all imported fats and oils used in this country.

Argentine Wheat Crop Estimate

The Argentine wheat crop is officially estimated at 144,035,000 bushels, or 96,634,000 bushels less than the 1934 crop—smallest since 1916. The area sown this year was 14,208,000 acres, but the harvested area is placed at only 11,913,000 acres. Sowings last year totaled 18,812,000 acres; the harvested area, 17,154,000 acres.

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

NEW BREED EXPERIMENTS

The development of unusual milk producers, good-natured horses, and affectionate dogs is being attempted in breeding experiments recently started by the Department of Agriculture.

Involved in the experiment are twenty-two red Danish milk cattle of unusual milk-producing proclivity; six horses of a breed described as being made up of quadrupeds of "unusually good disposition which makes them suitable for many purposes;" and four Puli dogs of Hungarian origin, that are known for their affectionate disposition.

CANADA'S CROP-VALUE LOWER

Preliminary estimates of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place the value of Canada's 1935 field crops at \$510,835,600—a decline of 7 per cent from the value of the 1934 harvest, but well above any other year since 1930.

The 1935 wheat crop is valued at \$166,693,000, about \$3,000,000 below that of 1934. The general level of wheat prices is higher this year but the harvest was reduced in quantity and was of lower grade. Production was increased sharply for many crops, especially the coarse grains and fodder, but reductions in prices more than offset this increase.

TANNING AT HOME

The *Idaho Wool Growers' Bulletin* contains this simple formula for home tanning of cattle hides and sheep pelts:

"Ten gallons of soft water, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of bran, 7 pounds of salt, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds or $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints of sulphuric acid go into the solution for tanning beef hides. Only 1 pint of sulphuric acid need be used for tanning sheep pelts.

"After the hide has been cleaned and fleshed, it should be immersed in the above solution for twelve hours, then washed and dried. The more the hide is stretched and worked while drying, the softer and more pliable will be the finished product."

DAIRY OUTPUT TO INCREASE

Current production of manufactured dairy products is less than that of a year ago, but production in early 1936 is likely to exceed that of early 1935, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics re-

ports. It is also stated that although domestic prices of butter have been going up, the price of New Zealand butter in London has been going down. In early December the margin of the New York prices over the London prices was 13.7 cents, compared with 8 cents in November and with 1.4 cents in October. Milk production per cow on December 1 was a little more than on that date last year, but there were fewer milk cows on farms and total production shows a slight reduction compared with a year ago.

WILD-LIFE POST CREATED

The appointment of Dr. Homer L. Shantz, president of the University of Arizona, as chief of the Division of Wild-Life Management of the Forest Service, was recently announced by F. A. Silcox, chief of the Forest Service. The appointment will become effective June 1, 1936.

Dr. Shantz had formerly been connected with the Department of Agriculture, having been assigned in 1910 to the Bureau of Plant Industry as a plant physiologist and botanist. His career also embraces wide experience in Africa.

The Division of Wild-Life Management, which Dr. Shantz will head, was recently expanded under the reorganization program of the Forest Service, its work being formerly coupled with range management. The new chief will launch an expansive program of critical analysis of conditions, resources, and demands of wild life on the national forest areas.

CANADA'S REINDEER HERD THRIVING

After a trek of over 1,600 miles across the rim of the Arctic Circle—from western Alaska to a preserve at the delta of the Mackenzie River—the reindeer which were delivered to Canadian government representatives in March, 1935, have now produced 811 fawns. The number of animals at the station, as shown by the August roundup, was well over 3,000. Both the young and mature animals have progressed rapidly on the reserve.

When the herd was delivered, the count showed 2,370 animals, including



Broader Horizons in 1936

New markets, business contacts you can't make in person or friends in far-away places are always in reach of your telephone.



Low station-to-station night rates begin at 7 P. M.

1,498 females of all ages, 611 bulls, yearlings, and male fawns, and 261 steers. This was a female percentage of over 63, which was considered highly satisfactory after the long drive. With the reindeer established on their new grazing range, the officers in charge considered that, for the better development of the herd, the number of breeding males should be reduced, and as a result there is now a surplus of about 580 steers of all ages. A certain number of the mature animals—that is, those of three years of age and over—will be slaughtered from time to time to provide food and clothing as required.

BIG GAME MAKING GAINS

Big-game animals are more than holding their own in the national forests, although in many other areas they face serious depletion, if not extinction. In the last ten years their number has approximately doubled, and wild life census figures compiled recently show continuing gains, the Forest Service announces.

The estimate, based on actual count of noses in representative areas and continuous observation by forest officers, shows 15,000 antelopes—an increase of 600 during the past year—on the western national forests, largely concentrated in the national forests of Arizona, Idaho, California, and Montana; deer have increased to a greater degree than any other big-game animal, a total of 1,040,000 being reported at the beginning of 1935—a gain of 100,000 in a year; elk, largely roaming the national forests of Wyoming and Montana, increased from 115,000 to 120,000; moose showed a slight increase, and the population of those mammals is now placed at somewhat more than 8,000; mountain sheep the nation over were estimated to number well over 13,000; the mountain-

goat population was put at 17,900—a slight decrease from last year's number; black or brown bears and grizzlies suffered a slight general decrease in the national forests, the count showing 55,000 and 5,100, respectively.

WORLD WOOL SUPPLIES REDUCED

Production of wool in twenty-four countries in 1935 was about 3 per cent smaller than in 1934, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Because of the decrease in wool stocks in several countries, available supplies have been reduced somewhat more than has the total production. Apparent wool supplies to be disposed of in the remainder of the 1935-36 season in four important exporting countries are now about 13 per cent less than those of a year ago.

Despite the reduced world production, exports of wool from Southern Hemisphere countries in recent months have been larger than a year earlier, chiefly because of the improved demand-conditions in wool-importing countries. Imports of wool into the United States have increased substantially in recent months, and further increases are likely in the next few months, in view of the reduced domestic supplies available.

Wool prices in both domestic and foreign markets have been fairly steady in recent weeks. Because of reduced domestic and foreign supplies and the strong foreign demand for wool, no material change in prices in the United States is anticipated before wool from the 1936 domestic clip becomes available.

Considering the sharp advance in wool prices in the last six months, together with the high level of mill activity in most of 1935, it seems probable that domestic mill consumption in 1936 will be reduced somewhat from the high level of 1935, the report concludes.

five years, 1929-33. The greater part of the increase was in the north-central (Corn Belt) states, and was relatively greatest in the western Corn Belt.

The number of sows farrowed in the fall season of 1935 is estimated at 3,344,000 head—an increase of 25.9 per cent over 1934. In June, 1935, the probable number to farrow in the fall of 1935 was estimated at 3,175,000 head. The average number of pigs saved per litter this fall was 6.06, compared with 6.84 in 1934.

The combined spring and fall pig crop of 1935 is estimated at 50,674,000 head—a decrease of 2,655,000 head, or 5 per cent, from the combined crop of 1934. In the Corn Belt states the combined pig crop of 1935 of 37,566,000 head was 2,678,000 head, or 6.7 per cent, smaller than that of 1934. Nearly all the decrease in the Corn Belt was in the states west of the Mississippi River. In the north-Atlantic and south-Atlantic areas the combined pig crop of 1935 was larger than that of 1934.

The number of sows to farrow in the spring season of 1936 (December 1 to June 1) is estimated at 6,220,000 head. This is an increase of 23.9 per cent over the small number farrowed in the spring season of 1935, but is 4 per cent smaller than the number farrowed a year earlier, and 29.2 per cent below the average of 1932-33. The 1936 corn-hog adjustment program allows contract signers to produce in 1936, without penalty, their yearly average of 1932-33. There is a wide variation among states and regions in the increases estimated for next spring, although larger numbers are indicated in all states. The biggest increases are in the western Corn Belt states where the 1934 drought drastically reduced hog production in 1935. By areas the percentage increases are: east north-central, 22.2; west north-central, 28.3; total north central, 26.1; north-Atlantic 23.6; south-Atlantic, 6.9; south-central, 17.9; western, 29.1.

DECEMBER PIG-CROP REPORT

An increase of about 31 per cent in the fall pig crop of 1935 over that of 1934, a decrease of 5 per cent in the combined spring and fall crop of 1935 from that of 1934, and a prospective increase of 24 per cent in the number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1936 over the small farrowings in the spring of 1935 are detailed in the December 1 pig-crop report of the Department of Agriculture.

The number of pigs saved in the fall season of 1935 (June 1 to December 1) is estimated at 20,272,000 head—an increase of 4,750,000 head, or 30.6 per cent over 1934, but a decrease of 27 per cent from the average number for the

PACKERS' FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Armour Shows Profit

During the fiscal year ending November 2, 1935, Armour and Company and subsidiaries handled a volume of sales amounting to \$683,000,000, with a net profit of \$9,349,000, the company's annual statement shows. This represented a profit of approximately 1.375 cents per dollar of sales. The sales in dollars showed a 21 per cent increase over the previous year, due to higher prices. Tonnage was 3 per cent less.

Of the profit shown, \$1,584,000 was earned by the company exclusive of

Cowboy Boots

Strictly handmade to your measure. Fancy imported and domestic leathers. New 1935 catalog with thirty-six new styles. Catalog on request.



Western Boot Company
TUCSON, ARIZONA

Armour and Company of Delaware and its subsidiaries, and \$7,765,000 by Armour and Company of Delaware and its subsidiaries consolidated, which in addition to its domestic business includes South American leather and fertilizer operations.

During the year the company paid the regular dividends on Armour and Company of Delaware 7 per cent preferred stock and Armour and Company \$6 prior preferred stock. In addition, the company paid \$3 a share on accrued dividends on the Armour and Company 7 per cent cumulative preferred stock, of which stock there were only 34,450 shares in the hands of the public at the end of the year.

Cudahy Earnings Lower

The Cudahy Packing Company reports net earnings of \$1,211,073 for the fiscal year closed November 2—a decrease of \$757,189, compared with the 1934 income.

This was equivalent to \$1.35 on the \$50 par value of common stock after provision for preferred stock dividend requirements. Earnings last year equaled \$2.97 on the common stock.

The increase in sales from \$151,400,000 in 1934 to \$180,218,000 was due entirely to higher prices and not to greater tonnage, E. A. Cudahy, chairman of the board, said. In fact, the total weight of live stock purchased was 17 per cent below that of the preceding year.

Swift's Sales Up

Total sales, including service revenues, by Swift and Company for the fiscal year ending October 26, 1935, were \$767,227,312.80—an increase over the previous year, due largely to the rise in live-stock and meat prices. Volume was 3.9 per cent less than in 1934.

Profits for the year amounted to 6.7 per cent on shareholders' investment, and averaged 1.9 cents per dollar of sales, in which are figured profit on inventory due to rise in meat prices. Dividend disbursements for the calendar year have totaled 4 per cent on the capital stock.

UNITED STATES INVESTMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA

According to statistics issued by the Department of Commerce, the outstanding United States long-term investments in Latin America amount to a total of about \$5,000,000,000, including \$2,930,000,000 in South America, \$110,000,000 in the West Indies, and \$897,000,000 in Central America and Mexico. The Latin American total was nearly one-third of

the world-wide investments by United States citizens at the end of the last year, amounting to \$14,089,000,000.

It Takes Time.—Two men were discussing the vexed question of the education of their children.

"What's your boy going to be when he finishes education?"

"An octogenarian, I think," replied the other.—Washington Labor.

Considerate Pat.—Boss—"Well, Pat, so you want to leave the works. Are the wages too small?"

Pat—"The wages are all right, sor, but I'm afraid I'm cheating a horse out of a job."

So to Speak.—"No, Henry, I don't think a manicurist should marry a dentist."

"And why not?"

"If we fought, it would be tooth and nail."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

HAWAIIAN CANE MOLASSES

Nature's favored feed



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The self-feeder illustrated consists of a drum of Cane Molasses inverted in a wooden trough—a "Calf-eteria" that's always crowded.

All animals and fowls relish Cane Molasses. Fed either "straight" or mixed with grain or roughage, it results in quicker gains, improved production, increased vitality.

Vitamin-rich; contains nearly 200 lbs. of minerals per ton; practically equals grain in feeding value; economical to use. If your Feed Dealer cannot supply Cane Molasses in bulk or in commercial mixtures, please write us, sending his name.

A. B. MILLER, head of the B. B. Co., Montezuma, Calif., and the famous Fontana Farms, says: "We have been feeding Cane Molasses to our cattle for the past five years. All of our cattle rations contain 15% to 20% and we have had uniformly good results from its use. More recently we have also been feeding it to our hogs at Fontana, with equally good results."

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ROUND THE RANGE

RANGE AND STOCK CONDITIONS

Western ranges and pastures generally have an abundance of feed, reports the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates in its January 10 release. Timely snow covering has made much grazing area available both to cattle and sheep. Stored hay and concentrates were being used freely in some areas, however, because of stock-water shortage, and present prospects are none too bright for early pasture in much of the range country, because of a dry subsoil. The condition of ranges is 79 per cent of normal, compared with 81 last month, 60 a year ago, and 79.5 for the ten-year, 1925-34, average. Cattle are in good condition. Considerable numbers are still moving to market, particularly steers and dry cows, and demand for feeder cattle has been good. Calf-crop prospects are good. Sheep and lambs are in good condition. Winter sheep range has been restricted because of lack of stock water in much of the range area. Lambs in feed-lots have done exceptionally well. Early sales of fat lambs from the feed-lots have topped the markets after a feed of a scant 100 days. Prospects for the early lamb crop are good in Arizona and California. Losses have been below average, with diseases almost non-existent. Some growers report heavy losses from predatory animals.

Detail by states follows:

Arizona.—Range showing new growth under general rains and snow; prospects good for early range feed; soil moisture good; old grass plentiful except in scattered areas; cattle and sheep show little shrink since winter set in; stock condition good; prospects good for better-than-average calf and lamb crop; feed plentiful; stock water adequate.

California.—Ranges considerably improved due to recent rains; high and intermediate range has good feed, but yard-feeding prevalent; cattle and sheep declined; feed adequate to carry stock through remainder of winter in good condition and flesh; early lambs suffered from lack of green feed.

Colorado.—Mild, open December allowed full range use, conserving feed; condition of cattle and sheep seasonally declined, but generally good; death losses light.

Idaho.—Weather dry and colder than normal during December; range generally free from snow; some heavy snow in higher ranges; stock concentrated in valley areas and being yard-fed; feed and water ample; cattle and sheep in excellent condition; losses below average.

Kansas (western).—Ranges, pastures, and cattle declined during month; feed not plentiful in drought area; wheat pasture fair to poor, subsoil moisture short; death losses light to average.

Montana.—Weather conditions not wholly favorable, but some areas have ample snow on ranges for general grazing; ranges fair to good, except where 1935 drought and insect damage was heavy; cattle and sheep held up well, with average losses; feed supplies short in some areas.

Nebraska (western).—Ranges in good condition; snow covering light; demand for feeder cattle brisk and movement of dry cows and steers liberal; cattle and sheep in good condition and flesh; hay and feed supplies adequate at attractive prices; death losses light.

Nevada.—Conditions improved, with general snows over entire state; grass and browse good; weather favorable for stock; hay, feed, and stock water plentiful.

New Mexico.—Rain and snow general over northern part of state; old range grass short but sufficient; cattle and sheep went into winter in good flesh and are holding up well; hay, feed, and water supply generally ample; prospects good for average or above-average calf and lamb crop; losses light.

North Dakota.—Ranges generally snow covered; severe blizzard damaged live stock somewhat; subsoil moisture short; cattle and sheep in good condition; hay, feed, and stock water ample.

Oklahoma.—High temperatures and open weather caused slight decline in range condition; late December snow helped, but more needed; cattle declined slightly; stock losses average or below; cattle demand good; stock water ample.

Oregon.—Ranges good; subsoil moisture short; cattle and sheep held up well, although slight flesh loss evident; hay and feed adequate except in north-central area; losses below average; stock water ample.

South Dakota (western).—Ranges and pasture carry sufficient feed; snow ample

for good grazing; cattle and sheep in excellent condition; death losses few.

Texas.—Stock declined slightly more than seasonal, but generally improved over year ago; stock holding up well in mild, open weather; little yard-feeding necessary; wheat pasture slow developing; moisture needed; death losses average or below; more cattle and sheep on feed than year ago.

Utah.—Range conditions improved by late December snow, softening grass and widening area of stock range; cattle and sheep in excellent condition and health; losses less than average; hay and feed adequate; stock-water supply adequate.

Washington.—Ranges open but lack moisture and are without usual feeding value; some yard-feeding of cattle and sheep necessary; condition of stock good; losses light; hay, feed, and stock water.

Wyoming.—Winter ranges good, except in northeast; considerable snow in high sections; snows on plateau widened grazing areas; stock-water situation improved; hay and feed ample; cattle and sheep in excellent condition; dry-cow movement to market heavy; losses below average.

REPORTS BY STOCKMEN

California

Feed in this locality is the best it has been for years. Cattle are in excellent condition, and we will get a fine calf crop. Calf crop was light in 1935 all over this country, owing to the bad drought of 1934. Rainfall so far has been about normal.—L. E. WILLIAMS, Cima, Cal.

Kansas

Still dry here; no grass to speak of; not so many cattle being wintered as last year, and these are mostly cows. All steers are sold and very few of last year's calf crop left. There is no wheat pasture, but feed is ample for what cattle are on hand. We need snow or rain this spring, otherwise the grass will not be sufficient to carry cattle through the summer. Cattle are wintering well on feed and cake. Prices are a good deal better than last year and people feel as though stockmen will fare better through 1936.—RUSSELL T. BEATY, Lakin, Kan.

Minnesota

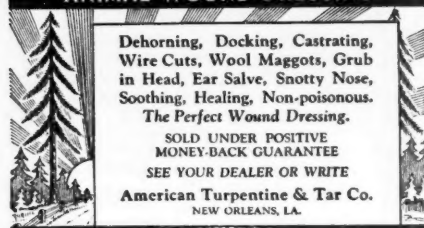
There is an abundance of feed here but the corn was nearly all soft and moldy; it is being fed up as fast as possible. The weather has been changeable here the past two months—not too much moisture in the soil.—JOE CHRISTENSON, Glenville, Minn.

North Dakota

The northeastern part of North Dakota has had good snow covering since November 1, which will insure considerable moisture for coming crops. Other parts have had snow in varying quantities. There is plenty of stock water, and grass is high and of good quality, as no damaging rains fell after the fall curing. Cattle and horses are in excellent condition, with a large number still grazing. Only calves have been fed so far. Hay and other feed is abundant, more than will be used.—ANDREW JOHNSTON, Watford City, N. D.

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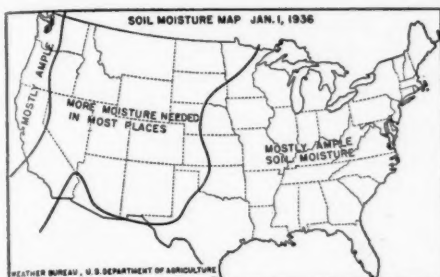


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THE PAST YEAR'S WEATHER

The new year opened with more moisture in the soil and more snow on the ground in most of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains than did 1935. In general, 1935 weather was decidedly more favorable for farmers than that of 1934, the Weather Bureau announces. It was distinctly wetter and somewhat cooler although generally warmer than normal.



In contrast with 1934, 1935 brought more than normal rainfall to most states east of the Rocky Mountains. Precipitation was below normal in many areas west of the mountains. The far Southwest and some central Rocky Mountain districts had more rain than usual. From southwestern Kansas and eastern Colorado southward there again was deficient moisture, with scarcely three-fourths the normal rainfall. This, however, exceeded the 1934 total. Only in the interior of the Pacific Northwest was precipitation less in 1935 than in 1934. An outstanding feature of 1935 weather was persistent wetness in the interior valleys in the spring, which seriously delayed planting, especially of corn.

December snowfall in 1935 was far greater than in 1934 in the East and Southwest, but in the West, particularly the mountainous parts of Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and California, there was less snow in December, 1935, than in the same month of 1934.

Although 1935 was cooler than 1934, temperatures averaged above normal, except in a limited area of the Northeast and locally in the far Northwest. The lowest temperature for the year was 51 degrees below zero at Pine River Dam, Minnesota. Grantsburg, Wisconsin, with 50 degrees below was a close second. The highest temperature was 123 degrees at Cow Creek, California, in July. The 1934 low was 52 degrees below zero, in the state of New York, and

the high was 125 degrees, in California. Despite the general tendency toward higher temperatures in 1935, fall frosts came to the central states somewhat earlier than usual.

NATION'S TIMBERLAND IN SAD STATE

The completed report on timberlands in Minnesota—the first state to be surveyed in a nation-wide inventory by the Forest Service—is called a “picture in miniature” of the forest situation in the United States. It demonstrates that “a century of use and abuse has made a profound change in forests.” It shows “conditions typical of many states where destructive clearing and lumbering” have been common. But it also has brought together facts important in forming new programs of conservation and rehabilitation.

Of an original forest area of 31,500,000 acres in Minnesota, there remain today only 19,500,000 acres, much of which is classified as “forest” for lack of a better name. Actually, 21 per cent of it has no tree growth, and 38 per cent is occupied only by aspen and scrub oak. Only 41 per cent retains any semblance to the original types.

The changes in size and quality of timber are striking. The original forest contained at least 10,000,000 acres of old-growth pine, spruce, and hardwoods. The present area of old-growth saw timber of all types is only 343,000 acres, or 3 per cent of the original. Ninety-seven per cent of this kind of timber, which was the mainstay of the lumber industry, is gone.

A few areas in Minnesota—such as the Superior district and the Chippewa National Forest—indicate what may be expected of cut-over lands with reasonable care and protection. The Superior district, burned over almost completely seventy years ago, now has more than 300,000 acres of second growth nearing merchantable saw-timber size, and nearly 1,000,000 acres of cordwood forest, over half of which is in valuable pulp-wood types.

WORLD WOOL MACHINERY

The *Pastoral Review*, published in Melbourne, notes that there are 25,567,303 woolen and worsted spindles, and 419,309 looms engaged in the production of wool goods throughout the world.

Of the foregoing, 20,041,080 spindles and 344,660 looms are in European countries, and the greater part of the remainder in the United States. The number of spindles in the United Kingdom is 6,850,000; in Germany, 3,854,950; and in France, 2,980,000. Looms in

Great Britain total 101,000; in Germany, 87,540; and in France, 50,000. Czechoslovakia employs more machinery than Italy, the figures being 1,309,622 spindles and 22,282 looms in the former, as against 1,201,460 and 21,000 in the latter, country. Russia employs only 434,140 spindles and 11,917 looms.

Japan has 765,793 spindles (compared with about 500,000 in 1930) and 9,871 looms. There has been, during recent years, a progressive increase in the number of looms engaged on wool muslin, and a decrease in looms for the heavier cloths in Japan.

FIRE FIGHTERS PARACHUTED TO FIRES

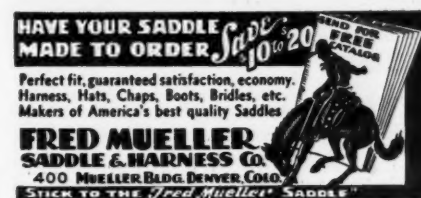
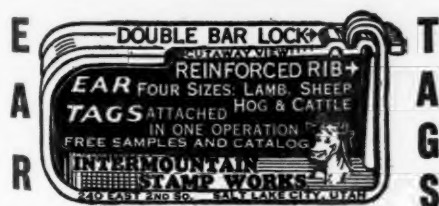
The latest device to be tried out by the Forest Service in its annual battle with the “red enemy” is a new type of parachute which will land the forest ranger near the fire-line direct from an airplane without the bother of walking or riding from the nearest landing field. Having used planes to deliver food and equipment to fire fighters, the air-minded foresters have invented a quick-releasing safety harness for the parachute, and further to minimize free falling distance the fireman descends through an aperture in the airplane floor down a light-weight ladder until suspended in the parachute shroud-lines. The pilot releases him at the right moment and his weight draws the parachute from the container in the ship's floor.

So far only limited proof of the practicability of this idea is available in the form of thirty-four consecutive successful drops of a 165-pound dummy and two deliveries of a man at elevations of from 150 to 400 feet above the ground.

BEEF GRADING IN ENGLAND

The progress being made in the beef grading and stamping movement in England is told us in the below quotation from the *Meat Trades' Journal* (London):

“The number of sides of home-killed beef which have been graded and marked with the national mark continues steadily to increase. This grading scheme was launched in London in 1929, and today it is in operation in the Greater London,



Birmingham, Leeds, and Birkenhead (with Liverpool) areas. Returns received by the Ministry of Agriculture show that during September more than 31,000 sides were graded and marked, an increase of over 40 per cent compared with the number of sides graded and marked in September, 1934."

FARM LAND MARKET IMPROVES

Brisk activity and an optimistic outlook in farm real estate is indicated by figures recently released by the Farm Credit Administration on 1935 operations. Over 6,400 farms were sold by the federal land banks in the first ten months of 1935, compared with 4,900 in the entire year of 1934 and 4,100 in 1933. In addition, more than 1,000 part farms were sold in 1935.

The land banks have had an unusual demand during the year for loans to finance the purchase of farms. Application for such loans, it is reported, are being received at the rate of 2,000 a month.

HOW TO HANDLE CATTLE

In a year-old number of *Live Stock Markets*, published by John Clay & Co., William Lansdown, of Fort Lupton, Colorado, has a letter on how to approach fidgety cattle. We quote:

"Since working with the wilder cattle for many years, I believe deportment is a large factor in their handling. To an extent stock is molded to the herdman.

"When we approach an animal, we do so in three ways at once—by smell, by sight, and by sound. Notice a cow bawling for her calf. When it comes, she smells it. If it smells right, she lets it suck. So people have each a separate odor, and the cattle know their owner that way.

"When the herdman wears different-looking clothes, the wilder cattle notice it.

"The third approach is by sound. If we come among cattle almost like a shadow, with no sound, they handle better. For this reason, the manner of approaching has to be practiced—walking more on the heels, avoiding twigs frozen snow, or anything that crackles. If one stumbles, the cattle will jump. Even talking may disturb them a little.

"Cattle warn each other or their herdman silently of anything new or strange approaching by pointing their ears toward the new object. They also have something like speech, and some herdmen partly know that....

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

20,000-ACRE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Cattle Ranch. Several thousand acres irrigated meadow lands with free gravity water. No dry years. Will carry 4,000 head cattle. Priced to sell. For details, R. G. Percy, 200 Broadway, Chico, Cal.

"Usually wilder cattle, except bulls, do not make trouble for anyone among them on foot, unless they are cornered in board pens. Possibly in the open a cow will fight almost anything for its new-born calf. When they do fight, the dehorned cattle can break a person's bones. The latter fact accounts for this article being written in pencil and from a rocking-chair."

Another scheme for keeping skittish ruminants quiet comes from Buckeye, Arizona, and relates to a cowman by the name of Hans Terkelsen. As told in the *Los Angeles Times*:

"Terkelsen was finishing about 400 range steers for market. They were just ordinary steers to start with—not wild, not gentler than most. One evening, while the cowman-feeder was away from home, they took fright at some noise or moving object in the darkness, and stampeded. Corral fences went down as though they were not there, and the animals scattered all over the big ranch.

"After that they seemed to have the stampeding habit. Twice more they carried the fences away. Even when they were not stampeding they were milling around ceaselessly, fretting off flesh faster than they put it on. Terkelsen installed flood lights over the corrals, but that did not help much. Every night, when he heard his stock begin to bawl and cavort, he would tumble out of bed to move around among them, talk to them, even sing. He took his portable radio out to the corral, set it up on an old barrel, tuned in on a Los Angeles station that is famed for twenty-four-hour jazz service, turned on the loud side full blast, and let her go.

"It worked like a charm. The steers became calm and tractable; they no longer took fright at any noise they did not understand; they got their proper amount of rest; they began to take on flesh at a normal rate. Even when reception is poor and nothing comes over the air but whines and howls and crashing static, it is all the same to them.

"Any steady noise would serve just as well to soothe those restless beasts, Terkelsen believes. The radio provides the easiest and chapest method of supplying the necessary racket."

WARBLES RESIST SALT

Some stockmen have long believed that salt treatments—either dry salt or brine—are effective in killing grubs or warbles in the backs of cattle. But a scientific test of salt applications showed that they were virtually, if not entirely, ineffective.

J. Stotchik, of the Department of Agriculture, tested a strong brine rubbed over the hair of several animals and found that it did not kill grubs. He injected brine into the holes in the hide, and the grubs survived. He rubbed brine repeatedly over the lumps in the back of a steer from which the hair had been clipped. His conclusion was that the frequent brushings were more effective in killing the grubs than the

brine. As a result, the Bureau of Animal Industry is not recommending the simple salt "cure" for grubs. It is simple enough, but it does not cure.

WHEN MEAT WAS HIGH

The *Butchers' Advocate* tells a little story about what Continental money did to prices:

"During and immediately after the American Revolution, prices of food-stuffs, and especially meat, reached unheard-of levels. Officials of the Department of Internal Affairs discovered recently that our colonial ancestors had to pay as much as \$8 a pound for bacon. Beef was sold at \$1,500 a barrel. This price was based on Continental currency, which was worth little when compared with present-day money. Horses ranged from \$2,400 to \$5,066, cattle prices varied from \$933 to \$3,000 a head. One transaction brought to light showed that \$2,551 was paid for seventy bushels of oats."

LESS BACKBONE MAKES HORSES STRONGER

Why can the Morgan horse carry riders in the saddle as easy as some of the larger horses?

Endurance, smooth lines, good style, and docility are some qualities of the Morgan horse, but he also has a shorter back than most other horses. It usually consists of only five lumbar vertebrae, whereas most horses have six. A horse with a backbone of twenty-three vertebrae and a short loin and coupling can—other things being equal—carry weight more easily than a horse with twenty-four vertebrae, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Presence of only five lumbar vertebrae in the Morgan horse supports theories that this horse probably is of Arabian foundation. Typical Arabian horses have but five such vertebrae.

Solved.—The editor of the poultry-journal received a letter from a woman reader. It read: "How long should a hen remain on the eggs?" The editor replied: "Three weeks for chickens and four weeks for ducks." Three weeks passed, and the editor again received a letter from the reader. "Thank you very much for your kind advice," it read. "The hen remained on the eggs for three weeks, and there were no chickens hatched, and, as I did not care for ducks, I took her off the nest and sold the eggs."—*Christian Advocate*.

That Was Enough.—Uncle and niece stood watching the young people dance about them.

"I'll bet you never saw any dancing like that back in the 'nineties, eh, uncle?"

"Once—but the place was raided!"—*Contact*.